

## Mr Carter hopeful of arms pacts in 1978

President Carter made an optimistic forecast in Warsaw yesterday that 1978 would see a resolution of many issues in arms limitation talks between America and Russia. As for strategic arms, many major issues had already been settled. The President told a news conference that he would reply in writing to questions on human rights, sent to him by dissident Polish journalists. They had been forbidden by the Polish authorities to attend the conference. Mr Carter said he had no plan to visit Cairo on his present tour.

## Warsaw told of issues resolved with Russia

Warsaw, Dec 30.—President Carter today promised to send a written reply to dissident Polish journalists who were excluded from the first news conference given by an American President in a Marxist country.

The underground dissident newspaper *Opinia* asked for accreditation to cover Mr Carter's trip but was refused by the Polish communist authorities.

However, the newspaper submitted written questions through the American Embassy, and Mr Carter said he would respond in writing.

*Opinia* asked among other things whether a permanent international body should be established to supervise the observance of human and civil rights. It also asked Mr Carter to say what effect the establishment of rival political parties in Poland would have on international détente.

The news conference was beamed by satellite to the United States but was not shown live in Poland.

*Opinia* is one of 14 "independent" newspapers produced by a variety of means ranging from crude duplicators made from washing machine rollers to batteries of typewriters. The first edition of the fourteenth such paper, "Gospodar" (Farmer), directed at agricultural workers, appeared today.

The emergence of the dissident newspapers in Poland is unique in Communist East Europe. Beseiged by serious economic and social difficulties, the Warsaw Government has made little attempt to clamp down on them.

*Opinia*, which claims a circulation of about 5,000, is the biggest of the dissident publications. It is run by a Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, itself illegal but tolerated.

Today's news conference was dominated by the problems of reaching a settlement in the Middle East.

The President denied reports that he was planning to go to Egypt in the course of his current nine-day tour of six nations. Nevertheless, he pointed out that he had a "grand invitation" from President Sadat.

On Thursday Mr Sadat expressed surprise and disappointment at President Carter's comment made in Washington, that he did not favour creation

## Mr Vance will join Israel-Egypt talks

From Moshe Brilliant

Tel Aviv, Dec 30

Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, informed Israel today that he will join the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers in Jerusalem for the meetings of the political committee of the Cairo conference, scheduled to open on January 15.

Mr Samuel Lewis, the American Ambassador, called on Mr Moche Dayan, the Foreign Minister, and brought official word that Mr Vance accepted the invitation extended yesterday and will attend the meetings at least for a brief period.

As stated in Parliament on Wednesday by Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, the committee will deal with the problems of Israeli civilian settlements in the Sinai peninsula which is to be returned to Egyptian sovereignty under the proposed peace treaty as well as with the deadlock over the future of Palestinian Arabs.

Mr Lewis told reporters after his meeting today that the rapport between the Government of Israel and the United States had grown steadily since the present Administration took office in June to Mr Carter and Mr Begin got to know each other better.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes: Egypt, embarrassed by Mr Carter's opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state, was today assessing the implications of the American President's attitude to the Middle East peace-making process.

Official sources here described Mr Carter's remarks as "unfortunate," particularly as they came at a time when President Sadat's Arab opponents were still continuing their onslaught on his peace initiative.

King Hussein in Iran, page 4

Sir Douglas Allen and Equal Opportunities chairman among five life peers in New Year Honours

## Mr Jack Jones and Dr Leavis become Companions of Honour

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Two controversial and influential figures, Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Professor F. R. Leavis, literary critic and moralist, are made Companions of Honour in the New Year Honours published today.

Mr Jones, who retires in March, will be remembered as one of the architects of the social contract as well as for his unwavering support of socialist ideals, and the intellectual vigour of Mr Leavis and his literature will continue to live in his sway.

The acceptance of an honour by Mr Jones comes after his strong advocacy of the abolition of the House of Lords at the Labour Party conference in October. He also disclosed that he had been offered a peerage but "I told them I did not want it." The statue setting up the Order of the Companions of Honour states that it is for "such persons as may have rendered conspicuous services of national importance".

The New Year Honours include five life peers, two of them former employees of



Honours for, left to right, Mr Jack Jones, Miss Betty Lockwood, Mr Peter Pears, Dr Leavis, and Mr Michael Young.

Transport House, the Labour Party headquarters.

Miss Betty Lockwood, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, was warden of one of the present until she took up her present appointment. Mr Michael Young, who until recently was chairman of the National Consumer Council, and is chairman of the Merton Aid Centre, was head of Labour's research department after the Second World War.

The other life peers are: Sir Douglas Allen, retiring head of the Home Civil Service, Lieutenant

Colonel Sir Martin Charteris, former Private Secretary to the Queen and Keeper of her Majestic Archives, and Professor Oliver McGregor, professor of social institutions at London

University.

Four new Privy Councillors have been created: Mr Concanan, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, Mr Davies, Minister of State, the Treasury, Mr Gilbert, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, and Mr Morris, Minister of State, Civil Service Department.

Among those who receive

knighthoods are: Mr Tom Hopkins, former editor of *Picasso Post*, for services to journalism, Mr David McNee, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Mr John Methven, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, Mr Leslie Murphy, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, Mr George Smith, general Secretary of the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians, Mr Kenneth Newman, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Mr Andrew

Shorfield, director, Royal Institute of International Affairs, and Peter Pears, the singer, for services to music.

There are 720 names in the previous lists they reflect Mr Callaghan's wish to recognize those whose work has benefited the community, particularly in education and the arts.

Mr Charles Carter, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, receives a knighthood, and at a lower level of honour Mrs Elizabeth Stannard is one among many who are recogni-

tioned for their community work by being awarded the British Empire Medal. She has cared for 50 foster children over the past 30 years. She comes from Mid Glamorgan.

In the field of community work Mr Donald Tyerman, a former editor of *The Economist* and a former deputy editor of *The Times*, is appointed CBE for his services to the Save the Children Fund.

Artistic merit is well represented. The list includes Mrs Isabel Wrigley, better known as Isobel Laing, the distinguished singer who sang with Toscanini. She becomes a Dame Commander of the British Empire.

Mr Walter Winterbottom, a former manager of the England football team, receives a knighthood for his services to sport. Mr Michael Brearley, captain of the England cricket team, is appointed OBE. Others created OBE include Mr Phil Bennett, for services to rugby football, Mr Maurice Goldstein, for services to youth centres, and Mr Dorian Williams, chairman of the British Horse Society.

List in full, pages 10 & 11  
Leading Article, page 13  
City knighthoods, page 15

## President's undiplomatic interpreter lacks polish

From Vernon A. Gilday Jr

Warsaw, Dec 30

It was not what President Carter said here that irritated and disturbed the Poles so much; it was what they thought he said.

Mr Carter had hardly stepped off his aircraft to be welcomed by Mr Gierek, the Polish leader, before the State Department translator accompanying him, Mr Stephen Seymour, had the President's foot in his mouth.

When Mr Carter spoke, a number of English-speaking Polish journalists and other Polish sources agreed this is what came out.

He said he had just left America that morning, but his audience at the airport and on television was told he was saying he had left for good.

At another point, the translator had Mr Carter desiring the Polish people carnally when he only wished them well.

Russian syntax and a Russian word were used.

When Mr Carter sought to praise the Polish constitution of 1971 as one of the three great documents in the eighteenth-century struggle for human rights, it was put out to Polish listeners as ridiculous.

Mr Jan Bedre, a Swedish journalist, listened to a broadcast version of the speech with a group of Poles.

"I speak Polish and I heard the errors," he said. "The Poles laughed at first, then they grew angry."

One Polish official, who declined to be named, said that progress was being made, aside from specific errors, it was distressing that the United States, which has a reputation for efficiency, should have brought an inadequate translation.

A member of the President's party remarked fondly that Mr Seymour was a great translator of written Polish—Washington Star.

Warsaw, Dec 30.—Mr Seymour was today replaced as Mr Carter's interpreter by Mr Jerzy Krycki, aged 36, a Pole who has worked as a teacher, interpreter and translator.



Miss Regina Dangerfield and Mr Robert Claiborne-Bixby, Caxton Hall's last bridal pair, after the ceremony yesterday.

## Last nuptials before the curtain falls

By David Nicholson-Lord

The flashbulbs popped, the confetti showered and the happy couple drove off in a white Rolls-Royce as Caxton Hall register office, London, yesterday celebrated its last nuptials of the pupillary knot.

From the new local government cost-effectiveness dictates that all marriages in Westminster will be registered at the council house in Marylebone Road. With the simultaneous closing of the Paddington register office, a saving of

the marriages of such diverse personalities as Sir Oswald Mosley, Diana Dors and Ringo Starr.

Not even the presence among the guests of Mr Pete Murray, the disc jockey, and Miss Jackie Trent, the singer, could disguise the chilly fact that in the wintery world of the last bride, an era was over.

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Continued on page 2, col 1

## Chancellor hints at new income tax cuts

By Christopher Thomas

Further cuts in direct rather than indirect taxation in the new Budget were predicted by Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in an interview on ITN's *News at Ten* last night.

Asked which form of tax cut he favoured, Mr Healey replied: "I think income tax. He explained that all Britain's direct taxes, such as value-added tax, were much lower than elsewhere in Europe, but income tax was substantially higher."

"I particularly want to help people at the bottom of the scale, either by a reduced rate band by which people pay a lower rate of tax on the first £500 or £1,000 of income, or else by further increases in tax thresholds, by increasing the amount of personal income."

Mr Healey said the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development was pessimistic in assuming that settlements and earnings will increase by a tenth in the public sector but by 15 per cent in the private sector. He said there had been only two private-sector settlements above 10 per cent: at Ford and Vaux-

## Firemen unlikely to budge Mr Rees at tripartite talks

By Christopher Thomas

would be sticking to the terms of the guidelines.

Those amount in a promise of more money later, but no more than 10 per cent now. The Government is prepared to underwrite a two-stage increase to give the firemen the equivalent of the skilled industrial worker's wage by November 1979. Assuming 10 per cent annual wage rises between now and then, that would give the firemen more than £100 a week.

After the talks the union will again have to face the delicate question whether to recall the national delegate conference that alone can end the strike. It almost certainly will not do so without making a recommendation on whether to return to work.

The FBU executive opposed the strike and the timing for a critical judging by recall from the regions, the men are generally still determined to hold out.

Delegates from the 18 Essex fire stations voted unanimously in Chelmsford yesterday to continue the strike.

The local authority employers said last night: "Our mood is one of caution and we are not prepared to express either optimism or pessimism."

Mr Terence Parry, FBU general secretary, will be writing to the TUC formally asking for a reconvened conference to reaffirm its policy for an immediate return to free collective bargaining.

The executive of the National and Local Government Officers' Association has voted by 44 to 17 against a motion to return to work.

In Kent and East and West Sussex, which make up the other brigades in the south-east region, the strike is still intact.

Mr Rees made it clear yesterday that while agreeing to Tuesday's tripartite talks, he

was acrimonious.

More than fifty FBU members in the Surrey brigade, mostly officers, defied the strike call from the outset. A senior officer said last night that pickets were not stopping the fire appliances. "There would be an offence," he added.

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## HOME NEWS

## Common system of 16-plus examinations may oust O levels and the CSE

By Patricia Rowan, of The Times Educational Supplement  
Plans for a common system of examining at 16-plus, to replace O-level and CSE examinations, are likely to be recommended in a report due at Easter from a steering committee set up by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

She was not prepared last year to accept the 16-plus proposals produced by the Schools Council for the Curriculum and Examinations, on the ground that difficulties of administration, cost and educational feasibility had not been resolved. She also had misgivings about the degree of teacher control envisaged.

But she acknowledged that a dual examination system at 16 is undesirable in comprehensive schools, she set up the steering committee last March, under the chairmanship of Sir James Waddell, formerly of the Home Office, to study the proposals further.

The committee, which includes Department of Education officials and inspectors, and representatives from teaching unions, industry and trade unions, is considering proposals for an administrative solution bringing together the CCE and CSE examining boards. It is believed that that might help to end the deadlock in all the other areas.

What is proposed is a geographical grouping of boards into six consortia. Each group would include at least one CCE and probably several CSE boards; they could be centred in the north, south, east, Midlands, London and Wales.

It is thought that when those groups are set up, "a much of the work of developing a joint system suitable for each region could be handed over to them."

They could decide on the basis of their own studies which

subjects would require more than one paper to provide for different ability ranges. It would remain possible for schools to sit examinations set by boards outside their own regions.

The consortium proposal, which is believed to have the support of the Department of Education, also reflects the view of committee members that, once one system of boards is agreed, one system of examinations and validation could quickly be brought about.

The boards have not yet been sounded on since the steering committee's deliberations are still confidential. It is thought that the CCE boards, who were severely critical of the Schools Council proposals, will find the consortium plan, which gives them a virtual takeover of power, more acceptable.

It is important to secure their cooperation, since they operate independently under royal charters, while the CSE boards, which have been given

most power in the Schools Council plan, are more directly under the control of the Department of Education.

The steering committee is working urgently to report in the lifetime of the present Government, but also because Mr St John Stevens, MP, shadow education spokesman, has committed the Conservatives to agree, one system of examinations and validation.

Although largely successful, those experiments reveal some of the difficulties that have to be resolved in five years before the 16-plus system could be fully operational.

It is vital to devise a central mechanism to ensure compatibility between the two sets, but difficult to decide who should control it. There is not yet enough evidence on how best to provide for all ability groups; boards with very different philosophies must be prepared to cooperate.

If the consortium proposal goes through, as expected, it will be on the beginning of an intensive period of experiment, requiring much time, money and compromise.

## Croydon schools caning inquiry sought

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has been asked to set up an inquiry into corporal punishment because use of the cane in some secondary schools in the Croydon area of south London.

The allegations have been made by the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment. Mr Colin Bagnall, secretary of the society, said yesterday that details of punishment books, provided by the local education committee, showed that more than 1,000 pupils in secondary schools were caned in 1976.

The society says that at Purley High School the cane is used between two and three times a day, and that six-formers are among those so punished.

At Overbury High School, it is alleged, it is used between once and twice a day; in several other schools it is in constant use. The society says that more than 200 pupils were caned more than once in 1976, and that one pupil at Tooting Manor High School was caned 11 times.

Mr Bagnall said the figures proved that corporal punishment was ineffective and an incentive to bad behaviour. Far from doing out, it was increasing.

The figures indicated that in some schools it was being used as a first, rather than a last, resort, he said. The cane was used excessively, 13 of 35 secondary schools did not use it at all during the year.

Mr Bagnall said the society would ask head teachers to explain why they used the cane

so frequently, when it was clearly ineffective.

Earlier this year it was disclosed that Mrs Williams had asked a wide range of organizations to submit their views on the use of corporal punishment in schools.

Mr Norman Dunn, Deputy Director of Education for Croydon, declined to comment on the figures but pointed out that they related to replies to questions put at open council meetings.

The society's statement that more than 1,000 boys were caned seemed to relate to 1,230 cases in the punishment book, but some pupils had been entered twice. The actual number of boys caned was 962.

Mr Dunn said head teachers were allowed to use the cane at their discretion.

Lessons in living: Britain must start to build an educational system with the main aim of teaching people how to live.

Education should have adequate standards of numeracy and literacy.

All young people should have some understanding of how the nation's economy was run and of the role of local and central government.

Work experience should be part of schools' fourth and fifth years, not just the fifth year, as at present. Pupils must learn for themselves the relevance of school subjects to the outside world; some jobs required special aptitudes and were not solely dependent on academic achievement.

The knowledge industry would be the main employer, with half of the population engaged in education and other forms of communication. Knowledge, he said, was the most important wealth-generating resource of a technologically advanced country.

## 'Deplorable' lack of nursery classes in town

By Annabel Ferriman

Only 3.1 per cent of children of nursery age in Harlow, Essex, are in nursery classes, according to a report on education in the town. The national average is 9.8 per cent.

A working party was set up by Harlow District Council to look at the town's educational provision after complaints by the Harlow Constituency Labour Party that all was not well.

The findings of the survey appear in this week's issue of *Education*.

The aim of the survey was to examine the possibility of increasing home-based study and to provide more information about the general housing market used by students.

The report suggests that the proportion of students living at home might be increased if the difference between their grants and those for students living away was reduced.

## Students 'prefer to live away from home'

Students prefer to live away from home despite the high cost and the discomfort sometimes involved, according to a report on student housing published yesterday. The report, the result of a research project commissioned by the Department of Education and Science in 1973 and which involved surveys in Brighton, Birmingham, Leicester and Edinburgh, is being considered by the Department.

It shows that students do not like living at home or in college lodgings, and that most would prefer to live in private rented accommodation.

It also shows, however, that many students pay a high proportion of their grants for housing and that more than one in ten feels the main drawback of

the accommodation is its physical discomfort.

Students were asked what they would do if only the only available places to study their subjects were at local colleges. Only a third said they would accept the places and live at home.

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## Woman doctor for trial after verdict

From Our Correspondent  
Cardiff

A woman doctor, Naline Rai, aged 28, was committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter yesterday by Mr William Adams, the South Glamorgan coroner, after a jury at a Cardiff inquest had returned a verdict of criminal negligence against her.

Dr Rai was stated at the inquest to have injected a massive overdose of a toxic drug into a boy aged four who was receiving treatment after an operation for a cancerous tumour of the brain. Dr Rai, who now holds an appointment at an

Ipswich hospital, was committed to Cardiff Crown Court on bail of £250.

Evidence was given that she had performed an intrathecal injection (in the head) of about 20 times the correct dose of methotrexate, a toxic anti-cancer drug, into Steven Borrans, of Winsford Road, Sully, near Cardiff, at Llandough Hospital.

Dr Eileen Thompson, a consultant paediatrician, told the jury that Dr Rai should have known the correct dose from the drug chart in the case notes and denied that she had complained about being disturbed from working. She had cooperated fully with the police and had been distressed by what had happened.

Mrs Marie Makepeace, staff pharmacist, said she told Dr Rai on the telephone what the correct dose was and Hilary Bowen, a staff nurse, said she

queried the dosage and advised Dr Rai to get advice from a senior registrar.

Mrs Barbara Burrows, the boy's mother, said she questioned the amount of fluid Dr Rai was injecting into her son as he lay on her knee but the doctor, she alleged, said she was in the middle of cooking and was annoyed at being disturbed.

Her son became paralysed and went into convulsions.

Dr Chief Inspector Raymond Hill said Dr Rai told him she had followed the drug chart in the case notes and denied that she had complained about being disturbed from working.

She had cooperated fully with the police and had been distressed by what had happened.

Mr Flynn is deputy general secretary of the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal Society of Medicine.

In 1974 he was acquired in the Special Criminal Court in Dublin of a charge of being a member of the Provisional IRA.

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## HOME NEWS

## All-party group of MPs and peers call for a strengthening of the laws against pornography

By Ian Bradley

An all-party group of 14 MPs and peers has called for a strengthening of the laws on pornography. They want the use of children for pornographic purposes to be made a criminal offence and propose an extension of the definition of obscenity.

The group, which is led in the House of Commons by Mr Michael Alison, Conservative MP for Barkston Ash, and in the House of Lords by Lord Longford and Lord Nugent of Guildford, made their proposals in a submission yesterday to the Committee of Inquiry on Obscenity and Film Censorship set up by the Government in June under the chairmanship of Professor Bernard Williams.

Several members of the group, who are all practising Christians of various denominations, urged the committee to require a ban on pornography. When Professor Williams's appointment was announced they protested at the fact that the chairmanship of the committee had been given to a well-known humanist.

In their submission they say

that the Obscene Publications Act, 1959, has proved uncertain and ineffective. They propose a new definition of obscenity which introduces the concept of material which, if repeatedly used would tend to deprave or corrupt.

They recognise "that there will always be an element of doubt whether a single contact with even the most obscene material would corrupt. The real danger is that it tempts the victim into further experiences which then become an addiction".

The group suggests that the defence of public good should be deleted from the Obscene Publications Act, although it accepts that the defence in the interests of science, literature or art should remain.

It also proposes that private individuals be allowed again to bring prosecutions in the case of theatre and film performances which they consider to be obscene. The right of private prosecution was dropped in the Theatres Act, 1968, and cinema performances by the Criminal Law Amendment Act of last July.

The group believes that special attention should be paid to protecting children and young people from exploitation for pornographic purposes. It proposes making it a criminal offence to persuade, employ or offer payment to any child or juvenile to be photographed or appear on the stage or before a camera unclothed, or to stimulate any sex acts or engage in sexual behaviour.

Announcing the group's proposals, Lord Nugent said: "As the producers of pornography push out the boundaries to enlarge their market into more and more offensive material, it is more than ever necessary that some of us should get up and say that an offence to public opinion is being created and that this is a serious danger to our national life".

The other members of the group are Lord Barrington, Lord Bessborough, Lord Carr of Hadley, Lord Halsbury, the Bishop of Lichfield, Mr Alan Bell, Mr Peter Mills, Mr Eric Ogden, Mr Terence Walker, Mr Patrick Cormack and Mr Cledwyn Hughes.

## Scott church needs £160,000 for repairs

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

An estimated £100,000 is needed for repairs to All Souls' Church, Halifax, West Yorkshire (right). The building, which Sir George Gilbert Scott, its architect, is thought to have considered his best, has been closed for the past year because of danger from decaying stonework.

The church was completed in 1859. It was commissioned and paid for by Mr Edward Akroyd, a local industrialist, who visualized it as the centrepiece of one of the model communities that were popular with wealthy philanthropists of the period.

The surrounding district, which includes Akroyd's house, now turned into a museum, was recently designated an outstanding conservation area.

Those pressing for the church's restoration are pinning their hopes on the Government's announcement last August that £750,000 would be made available in the next financial year for the preservation of ecclesiastical buildings in actual or potential use, as opposed to those declared redundant.

Under the new scheme grants of up to half the cost of repairs may be made through the Historic Buildings Council.

## MP says 4,243 policemen have resigned

Resignations from police forces in England and Wales this year have reached unprecedented levels, Mr Norman Fowler, Conservative MP for Sutton Coldfield, said yesterday.

Figures he has been given by the Home Office show that 4,243 police officers resigned without pension in the first 10 months of this year. No fewer than 960 were from the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Fowler said: "This year

will go down as a disaster year in this respect. It was by far the worst year for police resignations, exceeding the 1,000" resignations during 1976, 2,701 in 1975 and 3,657 in 1974.

"For the first time the number of resignations has exceeded 4,000," he added. "An analysis of the figures shows that although most resignations occur in the first two years of service, there are now increasing numbers of resignations

from experienced men."

Mr Fowler said that there had been 750 resignations in men with between five and 10 years' service and 340 in men with between 10 and 15 years' service. Most seriously affected were the big city forces, which were already under most pressure.

"These figures must be a cause for national concern. They mean that men with valuable experience are leaving for other jobs in unprecedented numbers."

## Instant coffee prices to be reduced

The price of one of Britain's best selling coffee powders is to be cut by about 15p for a four-ounce jar, it was announced yesterday. Brooke Bond said that because of a sharp fall in prices on the London market its "Brazilian Blend" instant coffee could be reduced to £1.10 and £1.20.

The retail price of a four-ounce jar of "Coffex" from the company's coffee and tea blend, would also fall to between 90p and £1, compared with the present range of 97p to £1.10.

The company said a ton of coffee now costs £1,800 on the London commodity market, compared with £4,400 last April.

## Children's bodies washed ashore

The bodies of two children were washed up on the Cornish coast yesterday. It is thought they are those of two children on the Danish coast, the Lady Camilla, which sank off Trevose Head on Christmas Eve.

A life raft washed ashore at Constantine Bay contained one body. The second came ashore six miles away.

## Four hospitals to shut

Northamptonshire Area Health Authority yesterday approved the closure of four hospitals, at Kettering, Corby, Pitsford and Crewe, as part of financial cuts.

More Home News, pages 11 & 12

## Warehouse fire charge against woman

From Our Correspondent

East Grinstead

Mrs Margaret Woods, aged 36, who is divorced, was charged at Haywards' Health Magistrates' Court, Sussex, yesterday with setting fire to her father's warehouse at East Grinstead.

Mrs Woods, of Hadlow Cottage, Dorking, has two children, one of whom is in her care.

She was in judicial custody to appear before East Grinstead magistrates on Thursday. Mr Christopher Russell, for the defence, said she denied the allegation.

The warehouse, in London Road, East Grinstead, belonging to Vacuum Cleaner and Appliances Supplies Ltd, was destroyed by fire on December 17.

## Footballing MPs

The British parliamentary football team is to play the West German Parliament at the National Sports Centre, Crystal Palace, London, on January 14.

## Doctors' pay report must await Commons' return

By Our Health Services

Doctors will have to wait until MPs return to the Commons on January 9 before hearing their review body's conclusions about pay.

The Prime Minister's press office said the letter he received from Sir Ernest Woodroffe, chairman of the review body, before Christmas would be published in Hansard. The British Medical Association and the Conservative Opposition have been pressing for immediate publication.

## Health authority appeals over £243,309 award

Mr Justice Bristow said the figure was high, but Dr Lim, aged 41, was condemned to a living death and would have to be looked after for the rest of his life.

The health authority, which admitted liability, is to appeal on the amount of the award. The hearing will be in the Court of Appeal after January 13.

Dr Lim now lives in Penang, West Malaysia.

## Scottish Ballet earns £250,000

Performances by the Scottish Ballet at home and abroad have earned more than £250,000 and attracted 172,000 people over the past year.

Mr Robin Anderson, the company's administrator, said yesterday that although the ballet's total subsidy was less than the Scottish Opera's, it performed to a more widespread audience.

Publication will probably take the form of a written answer.

The profession asked the review body for a statement of intent and recommendations to "rectify anomalies and lead to restoration of the profession's proper economic status".

The report may embarrass the Government by setting out how much doctors' salaries as professional men employed in a state service have fallen comparatively, and because of a similar review body assessment lead to questions about the pay of the Armed Forces.

## Winchester motorway plan may be dropped

By Michael Baily

Transport Correspondent

Winchester's much disputed motorway, by-pass scheme is likely to be dropped after long and costly protests. The government inspector is not due to report until next summer, but Mr David Park, chairman of the Winchester M3 Joint Action Group, said yesterday: "We are confident of a great victory."

Protesters have spent seven years and nearly £100,000 arguing that the 12-mile motorway is unnecessary and that it would damage the cathedral city, and that government departments had over-estimated traffic forecasts to justify it, and had under-estimated costs.

The Department of Transport decided to comment yesterday, but promised to take account of the motorway's impact on the town and of the forthcoming report of the Leitch committee on roads. Both favour the objectors' case.

The Leitch committee, as reported exclusively in *The Times* recently, finds that roads have been built unnecessarily and in the wrong place, and that traffic forecasts have been too high and cost estimates too low.

The White Paper, signalling an end to large-scale motorway construction in Britain, promises a "more flexible approach" to improving roads and to different standards according to need rather than "building to lines superimposed on maps and to rigid standards".

That is just what the Winchester protesters have proposed. Using eminent planning consultants, a statistician and an investment analyst, they attacked the case for the motorway at sometimes rowdy public inquiries, and suggested instead upgrading existing roads at only two-thirds of the cost.

Mr Park said yesterday: "We show that the motorway scheme would be nearer £28m in 1976 prices than the £20m estimated by the department, and that traffic flows in the 1990s would be only 60,000 vehicles a day, instead of 85,000."

"For the first time we were able to go into the case for a motorway in great detail and put up an alternative that would meet the traffic need without loss of speed or safety, with far less disruption and environmental damage, for only £17m-£18m."

## Boycott move on homosexual discrimination

By Our Labour Staff

Britain's fourth biggest union, the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo), may drop a plan to hold its 1981 annual conference in Scarborough because the local council refused last year to accept a booking from the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

Nalgo estimates that the town would lose £500,000 if the town conference, which involves more than 3,000 people, was held elsewhere.

A council official said yesterday: "This is a family holiday town and the majority felt that they did not want to encourage or pinpoint homosexuality. It was a democratic decision."

Mr Fowler said that there had been 750 resignations in men with between five and 10 years' service and 340 in men with between 10 and 15 years' service. Most seriously affected were the big city forces, which were already under most pressure.

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## OVERSEAS

## Nixon men live again in TV soap opera of Watergate years

From David Cross  
Washington, Dec 30

In a city that had lived through every agonizing twist and turn of the Watergate scandal, it did not take long for television viewers to identify the main characters in Washington: *"Behind Closed Doors"*, the epic political soap opera about the Nixon years, now being shown on BBC 1.

From the moment Mr Jason Roberts appeared on the screen as Richard M. Nixon, the presidential candidate with a pathological hatred of a dead president who had beaten him at an earlier election, there was no doubt that what purported to be fiction had merged with fact.

The serial is in fact based on a novel by Mr John Ehrlichman, the Nixon aide who is serving a jail sentence for his part in Watergate.

A little physical likeness to Mr Nixon is not great, Mr Roberts's facial gestures, in particular, accurately imitate those of the disgraced former President. Indeed, when Mr Roberts appeared here at the lead in an *Eugene O'Neill* play before Christmas, many members of the audience, including myself, were unable to divorce his Nixon portrayal from their minds.

British viewers, however, who were never as immersed in the Watergate scandal as their cousins across the seas, may be having more difficulty in identifying some of the other characters in *Behind Closed Doors*. For their benefit, here is a partial list of the most important figures in what became affectionately known here as *Doors*.

There are no prizes for guessing that Andy Griffith, who in the earlier episodes played Esker Scam Anderson, the curmudgeon outgoing President beset by the problems of Vietnam, is meant to be the late Lyndon B. Johnson. It is, however, not at all certain that the real President Johnson really disliked Mr Nixon as much as *Doors* would have us believe.

No prizes either for identifying Cliff Robertson's portrayal of William Morton as the former CIA director, Mr Richard Helms. Most people here felt the characterization

to be just about right, but friends of Mr Helms objected to the suggestion that he had ever indulged in presidential blackmail.

Equally easy to pin down is Harold Gould's portrayal of Dr Carl Tessler, the former academic and became President Monckton's chief foreign affairs adviser. Dr Henry Kissinger's views, as his fictional counterpart have never been made public, but at least Carl Tessler is a fairly sympathetic character in contrast to most of the others in *Doors*.

Former colleagues of Mr H. R. Haldeman, the powerful chief of staff to President Nixon from 1969 to early 1973, were not at all pleased with Robert Vaughn's screen portrayal of Frank Flaherty as a power-crazy monster responsible for virtually every plot hatched at the White House.

Mr Herb Klein, communications director at the White House for nearly six years during Mr Nixon's presidency, was quoted as saying: "He (Mr Haldeman) was a tough guy who ran a tight ship, but he wasn't a Nazi dictator."

In the television serial, the fictional version of Mr Klein, Bob Bailey (played by Barry Nelson) is mislabeled as the White House press secretary sacked by Flaherty for failing to be as unscrupulous as his boss wanted him to be.

His fictional successor, Hank Ferris, is clearly meant to be Mr Ron Ziegler, who was White House press spokesman. But journalists who knew Mr Ziegler have never accused him of being as insipid as the unbelievably stupid Ferris. After *Doors* was shown here in the autumn, Mr Ziegler said he was uncomfortable in his own mind that he was not that character.

Closer to a real-life figure is Tony Bill's portrayal of young Adam Carter, who is clearly meant to represent Mr. John Dean, the White House counsel who was the first person to implicate Mr Nixon directly in the Watergate cover-up.

Most of the women portrayed in the fictional account, such as Sally Whalen (Stephanie Powers), William Morton's girl friend, do not seem to have many identifiable counterparts in real life.

## Leader of pro-Moscow party in India quits

From Kuldip Nayar  
Delhi, Dec 30

Mr S. A. Dange, chairman of the pro-Soviet Communist Party of India, has resigned from the post because the party's National Council last week openly condemned the CPI's support of the emergency rule of Mrs Gandhi.

Under the guidance of Mr Dange, the CPI supported the imposition of the emergency in June 1975, and endorsed the policies of the former Prime Minister.

Mr Dange, a founder member of the party in 1922, is regarded as very close to Moscow.

After reading out Mr Dange's resignation telegram, Mr C. R. Kesavamurthy Rao, the CPI's general secretary, today told reporters that the party's new line was approved by all but two of the 114 members of the National Council.

The statement, admitting that the CPI's support for Mrs Gandhi's emergency rule was wrong, comes at a bad time for the former Prime Minister.

The CPI has been an ardent supporter of Mrs Gandhi since 1969, when there was a split in the ruling Congress Party and several other politicians, including Mr Morarji Desai, then Deputy Prime Minister, split to form a splinter Congress Party.

The assumption of the CPI has been that Mrs Gandhi pursued progressive policies and that therefore she merited full support by the Communists.

During the emergency, Mrs Gandhi's personal rank and file but Mr Dange and other party leaders kept the resentment bottled up.

Since the lifting of the emergency, CPI members have been more vocal. Hence the condemnation of the emergency rule and the exit of Mr Dange.

The withdrawal of Communist support for Mrs Gandhi comes at a time when she is trying to march her forces within her own splinter Congress Party. She has fewer adherents than before and most of the party's leaders are opposed to her.

The convention which she has convened for Sunday may be mainly intended because the main Congress Party has asked its members to boycott it.



President Carter stands silent after laying a wreath at the memorial to the dead in the Old Ghetto of Warsaw.

## President Carter sets out to appeal to Polish nationalism

Warsaw, Dec 30.—President Carter today debated East-West

détente in lengthy talks with Mr Gierek, the Polish party leader, after honouring Poland's war dead.

The President, ignoring sleep and driving rain, plunged into small but eager groups of Poles to shake hands. He was greeted by shouts of "long live Carter".

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because of their past struggles against Tsarist Russia as well as Nazi occupiers. The Polish Government tried to dissuade Mr Carter from making the visit, but he insisted, American sources said.

At the colonnaded Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Mr Gierek, the Polish authorities had assembled a small crowd, sheltering under umbrellas. Several hundred onlookers broke through police lines to get closer to Mr Carter. Stepped out of his car, he was welcomed by Polish officials, including Cardinal Wyszyński, the Roman Catholic Primate, for a 30-minute talk on social and religious problems.

The Cardinal gave Mr Carter a rosary and handed Mr Brezinski a rosary for his occupied mother who lives in Canada. The White House said only Mr Brezinski had planned to make the call, but Mrs Carter decided to go also.

Mr Carter also toured Warsaw's reconstructed Old Town.

The Old Town contains nearly a thousand historic buildings, most of which were flattened in the Second World War.

Mr Gierek told a group of American journalists that President Carter's visit would not distract Poland's focus from its links with the Soviet Union.

He expected the visit to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation between his country and the United States, however.

At each memorial, the president stepped briefly into the crowd to shake hands.

The memorials have deep national significance for Poles

They were discussing broad range of issues, both international and matters of direct Polish-United States interest, officials said.

Mr Carter hopes Poland can play a more active role in advancing East-West relations. He also wants Mr Gierek to see an example on human rights by lifting restrictions on Poles seeking to join families in the United States.

Mr Carter stayed late in his palace residence after his arrival last night at the start of a nine-day, six-nation tour. He then spent 60 minutes on a personal wreath.

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## Dispute over journalists' links with secret agents

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Dec 30

Three former American ambassadors have different views over how far journalists should cooperate with intelligence agents.

As a congressional hearing here continued to take testimony about the relationship between the news media and the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr William Porter, United States Ambassador to South Vietnam from 1965 to 1967, said he believed the first responsibility of an American journalist working abroad was to his government rather than his newspaper. This should be the case even if it meant planting false stories in the press or accepting pay for work done for the CIA, he added.

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The sound "policy", Mr Porter said, "is that there should be no relationship with the CIA or other intelligence organizations except in so far as the American newsmen, like any citizen, wish to volunteer information."

The hearings, which are being conducted by the intelligence committee of the House of Representatives, have now adjourned until Wednesday.

Mr Porter said he was "absolutely against" anything that threatened the work of the CIA, including recent agency regulations that ban it from making payments for services rendered by journalists.

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# Saturday Review

# The Aircraftsman and the Sage



T. E. Lawrence



Thomas Hardy

by H Montgomery Hyde

Thomas Hardy, OM, poet and novelist, was born in the Dorsetshire village of Stinsford on June 2, 1840, and died 50 years ago at Max Gate, his home in Dorchester, on January 11, 1928. His remains were cremated after his heart had been removed for separate burial at Stinsford. Meanwhile a group of his friends peti-

tioned the Dean of Westminster that he should be accorded a public funeral in the Abbey and that his ashes should be laid to rest in Poets' Corner. This was agreed, and it was officially announced that the funeral would take place on Monday, January 16.

There were 10 pallbearers who took up their positions on either side of the catafalque at the beginning of

the service, as I well remember, since I had managed to get into the Abbey for the occasion. They were led by the then Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, and the Leader of the Opposition, Ramsay MacDonald; they were followed in pairs by Rudyard Kipling, Sir James Barrie, George Bernard Shaw, John Galsworthy, Sir Bernard Shaw, John A. E. Housman, while A. B. Ramsay,

Master of Magdalene, Cambridge, and the Rev Dr E. M. Walker, Provost of Queen's, Oxford, representing the colleges of which Hardy had been an Honorary Fellow, brought up the rear.

Some years later, after I had gone up to Oxford, I mentioned to Dr Walker that I had been at the service in the Abbey and had sat beside Mrs Charlotte Shaw. The Provost thereupon told me that when he

arrived in the sacristy he found two pallbearers already there, Rudyard Kipling and Bernard Shaw. They were looking out of opposite windows and neither spoke to the other. Dr Walker then discovered that they had never met before, and so it fell to this head of an Oxford college to introduce the two most controversial if not most distinguished literary figures of the time to each other.

One notable absentee from Hardy's funeral was T. E. Lawrence, a close friend of Hardy towards the end of his life. As soon as Charlotte Shaw and her husband got back to their flat in Whitehall Court after the service, she sat down and wrote a long letter to Lawrence, then serving as Aircraftsman T. E. Shaw in India, giving him her impressions of the occasion while they were fresh in her mind.

During the last 10 years of his life, apart from old friends, Hardy received very few visitors. "I think I would rather strangers (even great admirers) did not come to see him now," Mrs Hardy wrote to Sydney Cockerell, her husband's executor. An exception was T. E. Lawrence, who arrived at the Royal Tank Corps Depot at Bovington Camp as Private T. E. Shaw in March, 1923. Before leaving London for Bovington, Lawrence had asked his friend and future biographer Robert Graves if he would give him an introduction to the sage of Max Gate. "Do you think old Hardy would let me look at him?" he wrote to Graves. "He's a proper poet and a fair novelist, in my judgment, and it would give me a feeling of another milestone passed if I might meet him. Yet to blow in on him in khaki would not be an introduction . . . What are my hopes?"

Graves immediately wrote to Hardy who replied that Lawrence would be very welcome at his house in Dorchester. "I saw Hardy yesterday, paid for seeing him too, for it meant cutting a paradise!" Lawrence wrote on March 30, 1923. "However, it was worth it, and I'm going down again, if ever he asks me . . . A very sensitive little man: faded now; with hope yet that mankind will give up warfare. He felt increduously old to me." (He was 83 then). Lawrence returned to Max Gate the following week, and until he got back to the other Hardy should autograph

as "rations and coal yard" so as to set the other men "free for their orgies." Xmas means something to them. My peregrinations mind between their camp and mine, between their professions of Soldier and Christian." But he made up for it by lunching at Max Gate a few days later when he met the Bernard Shaws, who had been a great help to him in correcting *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, which the Hardys had just read and praised. In fact Mrs Hardy got two copies, since she subscribed for one and was given another by the author.

One sunny afternoon in the following spring, the Hardys came to tea at Clouds Hill, and E. M. Forster, who was spending the weekend in the cottage, afterwards recalled the visit. What particularly struck Forster was that "Hardy seemed to come on a visit to us all, and not specially to see his host." Lawrence had also invited several of his particular friends to the cottage. Afterwards Mrs. Forster said: "I think of Clouds Hill as T. E.'s home; it is a place apart; and I feel it all the more poignantly for the contact of life in this squat camp. It is strange to pass from the noise and thoughtlessness of sergeants' company into a peace and quietness." Mrs. Forster added: "Mrs. Hardy's tea-cups sat on the tray: one from the teacup of hollow canseas bustle to the cheerful calm of T. E., thinking about life to two or three of us. If I were in his place I would never wish to die: or even to wish ourselves dead. The peace which passes all understanding; but it is not dead, and is nearly unbearable. How serious such an old age is."

However, there is enough to trying to write about something which is so precious that I judge writing about it is an offence. "It means that nothing in Clouds Hill is to be a care upon its inhabitant."

On one occasion Lawrence invented an excuse to come over to Max Gate on his motorcycle. He had copies of the thin paper editions of Hardy's *Poems* and *The Dynasts*, which he was anxious

not content with it: in fact it is still 14 years short of a decent score at cricket.

While he was in India Lawrence kept in touch with the Hardys by letter, but there was little about his life in camp (which he never left) that he felt would be of interest to them. Instead he dwelt upon their little domestic troubles at Karachi such as the loss of their old dog "Wesser" who had to be put down. In this connection he remarked that because they were ill or old, Mr. Lawrence was not a medicine human beings applied to their own species in a time which suggested that it might not be such a bad thing if they did. Lawrence liked "Wesser", and without him he felt that Max Gate "would not be quite right now". He had been just a year in the RAF Depot in Karachi when he heard the news that the poor old beast "had been followed into eternity by his master."

Charlotte Shaw's description of Hardy's funeral, which she wrote to Lawrence, is published in full here for the first time from the original in the Bernard Shaw Papers in the British Library:

"It was my doing", Lawrence wrote by way of apology to Mrs. Hardy, having heard what had happened from E. M. Forster. "The afternoon was raw and miserable, like the day, and when T. E. turned back into the house to get a shawl (as I guessed), instantly I ran the bicycle into the road and away, so that no possible reproach might lie against me for having helped him into the danger of a child." Lawrence continued in the same letter: "The knowing you and having the freedom has been a delightful privilege of mine for nearly four years. I cannot tell you how much I look forward to finding you there when I come back. Eighty-six is nothing of an age, so long as its bearer is

passed quite near me. I was curious impressed by Baldwin. I did he?" commented Shaw's letter. The silly little man annoyed me by smiling, causing me to decent to old T. H. whom he did quite a lot for when he first came to London, but whom he dropped after *Jude the Obscure*. So he was probably under Baldwin's dress. Baldwin I am sure is very good..." Lawrence had told the Hardys who was the Prime Minister, who was a first cousin of Kipling, had earned his (Lawrence's) gratitude by helping him to get back to the RAF when he overruled the Air Minister Sir Samuel Hoare's veto after Hoare had turned down Lawrence's application for readmission to the service.

"So Kipling looked sinister, did he?" commented Shaw. "Shaw's letter. The silly little man annoyed me by smiling, causing me to decent to old T. H. whom he did quite a lot for when he first came to London, but whom he dropped after *Jude the Obscure*. So he was probably under Baldwin's dress. Baldwin I am sure is very good..." Lawrence had told the Hardys who was the Prime Minister, who was a first cousin of Kipling, had earned his (Lawrence's) gratitude by helping him to get back to the RAF when he overruled the Air Minister Sir Samuel Hoare's veto after Hoare had turned down Lawrence's application for readmission to the service.

"Lawrence was lying on his bed in the Karachi depot camp on the Sunday after Hardy's death listening to Beethoven's last quartet on his gramophone when one of the airmen came in with the news. "We finished the quartet, because all at once it felt like him." Lawrence wrote the same day to Florence Hardy. "I am well off, having known him; you have given so much of your own life to a service of self-sacrifice . . . T. H. was infinitely bigger than the man who died three days back—and you were one of the architects. In the days since *The Dynasts* the Hardy of stress had faded, and T. H. took his unchallenged, unchallengeable place. . . He is secure." He still is 50 years later.

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# Three days' sound and television programmes

## New Year's Eve

5.50 pm BBC 1 Hogmanay is a night of simple pleasures, and what better way to start it than with the Good News Only Programme—James Savile, OBE, Will Fix It? Sale of the Century has the distinction of being an intelligent quiz show where some contestants actually do lose. Never mind the staff.

11.25 pm ITV Oh, dear. What's happened to BBC Scotland? STV has Moira Anderson and Kenneth McKellar and Andy Stewart to see in 1978. Well, well.—L.R.R.

## BBC 1

9.15 am, Fingerbobs. Bumpy, 9.30. Multi-coloured Swap Shop. 12.15 pm, Grandstand. 12.20, Football Focus; 12.50, 1.25, 1.55, 2.25, Racing from Newbury; 1.10, 1.40, 2.10, 4.00, Grandstand New Year Basketball Tournament; 2.45, Rugby, St. Helens Widnes; 3.30, Grandstand 1977, a look back, 4.40, Final Score, 5.10, The New Adventures of Batman (new series). 5.35 News. 5.50 Jim'll Fix It. 6.25 Dr Who. 7.15 Bruce's Choice, with Bruce Forsyth, highlights of 1977 series. 8.15 Val Doonican's Old Year Music Show. 9.00 Starstruck and Hatch. 9.50 News. 10.00 March of the Day. 11.00 The Good Old Days, the City Varieties Theatre, Leeds. 12.00 Big Ben. 12.01 am Celebration to bring in the New Year. 12.45 Prologue by Ian MacKenzie. 12.50 Weather.

Regional variations (BBC 1) except: BBC WALES: 9.20-9.45 am, Teatime; 9.45-10.15 am, Concert; 10.15-10.45 pm, Songs of the Season; 10.45-11.45 pm, Concert, part 1. 10.45-11.45 pm, Songs of the Season; 11.45-12.45 pm, The Blood-letting Thriller; 12.45-1.15 pm, Concert; 1.15-2.15 pm, Weather. NORTHERN IRELAND: 5.00-5.15 pm, News; 5.45-6.00 pm, Regional News.

## BBC 2

1.20 Gen Kelly double bill: The Pirate, with Judy Garland, 1.30. 2.30, The Wizard of Oz, 2.45. 3.30, The Dance, 4.45. Play Away Away Day 5.00, Horizon, The Great Wine Revolution. 5.50 Dan Badger and all the Coal, by W. H. Cowan, story of a miner and his pit horse. 6.40 News. 6.50 Die Fledermaus, operetta by Leopold Strauss, with Kiri Te Kanawa, Hermann Prey. 10.00 The Old Grey Whistle Test, Pick of the Year. 11.25 News. 11.30 Watchnight Service from Liverpool Chapel, Westminster Cathedral. 12.00 Big Ben. 12.01-1.30 Film: Ten Little Indians. 1.30 Black and white.

## ATV

9.00 am, Film: The Christmas Marathon, with Marcel Sabourin, Catherine Leduc, 10.10, Tiswas, 12.30 pm, London, 5.15, Celebrity Squares. 7.00-12.20 am, London.

## Southern

9.00 am, Sesame Street, 10.00, Tiswas, 11.25, Happy Days, 12.20 pm, Weekend, 12.30, London, 12.20 am, Weather. Epilogue.



James Savile, OBE (1972)

## London Weekend

9.00 am, Sesame Street, 10.00, Film: Knights of the Round Table, Part 2, 10.00, ATV, 12.30 pm, London, 12.30 am, A New Year Message.

## Radio

1 5.00 am, News, Tom Edwards; 6.05, Racing Bulletin, 6.06, Ed Stewart; 10.00, Kid Jensen, 12.00, Paul Gambaccini, 1.31, Rock on Radio, 2.30, Alan Freeman, 2.31, Rock and Roll, 6.30, 12.30, Concert, 7.31, Radio 1—The First, Ten Years, review, 9.00, Peter Powell and Kid Jensen, 1.00, 6.30, All night Late Show; 7.45

2 5.00 am, Radio 1, 10.02, Wally Whyton; 12.02 pm, Best of Two's Best; 1.30-5.55 pm, Sport, including Football, Racing from Newbury, Rugby, North Midlands v Gloucestershire; Cricket, prospects for Second Test, 5.00, Sports Report, 6.03, Hits of Europe, 7.7, 2.02, Morecambe and Wise, 7.30, Review of Top Tunes, 8.30, Jim Macmillan and his Band; 9.30, Radio Orchestra; 11.02, Sports Desk, 11.10-30 am, All night Late Show; 7.45

3 5.00 am, News, Tom Edwards; 6.05, Weather, 6.06, News, 6.07, Christopher Monckton, 6.08, Michael Parkinson, 6.09, Weather, 6.10, 12.30, Concert, 7.45, London, 8.15, London, 12.30 pm, London, 12.30 am, Weather. Epilogue.

4 5.00 am, Your Faithfully, 6.25, Your Farm, 7.45, Today's Paper, 8.15, 4.45, Your Faithfully, 9.50, It's a Bargain, 9.55, Weather, 9.00, News, 8.10, Sport, 4.45, Today's Paper, 5.15, Strange to Strange, 5.20, 12.30 pm, Your Own Service, 11.45, Between the Lines, 11.00, News, 11.02, Talking Politics, 12.00, Science Now, 12.00, News, 12.02 pm, John Adams, 12.35, Weather.

5 1.00, News, 1.15, Any Questions? 2.00, Frank Muir goes into Money, 2.30, Play: Just the Job, 3.00, News, 3.05, Open He takes the Job, 3.15, News, 3.30, Money, 3.30, Year Ending, 3.35, Weather.

6 5.00 am, Desert Island Discs, 6.50, With Great Pleasure, Alan Ayckbourn, 7.30, Christopher Gaze, 8.00, Play: My Speciality, 8.30, Weather, 10.30, 12.00, Review of the Year, 11.15, Should Old Acquaintance, 12.00, Watchnight Service from Lord Mayor's Chapel, Bristol, 12.25-12.25 am, Inshore forecast.

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32 5.30 am, Weather, 6.0







## NEW YEAR HONOURS

## List of awards in full

## PRIME MINISTER'S LIST

## LIFE PEERS

**BARONESS**  
LOCKWOOD, Miss Betty, chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission.

**BARONS**  
ALLEN, Sir Douglas Albert Vivian, Head of the Home Civil Service and Permanent Secretary, Civil Service Department.

**CHARTERIS**  
Sir Martin Michael Charles, lately Private Secretary to The Queen and Keeper of Her Majesty's Archives.

**McREGOR** Oliver Ross, Professor of Social Institutions, London University.

**YOUNG**, Michael, lately chairman, National Consumer Council; chairman, Mutual Aid Centre.

**COMPANIONS OF HONOUR**  
JONES, James Larkin, general secretary, Transport and General Workers' Union.

**LEAVIS**, Frank Raymond, for services to the study of English literature.

## PRIVY COUNCILLORS

**CONCANNON**, John Dennis, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office; MP for Merthyr Tydfil.

**DANES**, David John Denzil, Minister of State, HM Treasury; MP for Ilanelli.

**GILBERT**, John William, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence; MP for Dudley, East.

**MORRIS**, Charles Richard, Minister of State, Civil Service Department; MP for Manchester, Openshaw.

## KNIGHTS BACHELOR

**BARRACLOUGH**, Kenneth James Priestley, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Lord Chancellor's Department.

**BATES**, David Robert, FRS, Research Professor of Theoretical Physics, Queen's University, Belfast.

**BUTTERFIELD**, William John, Honorary Regius Professor of Physics, Cambridge University.

**CARTER**, Charles Frederick, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University.

**ELLIS**, Ronald, Head of Defence Sales, Ministry of Defence.

**FRASER**, James Campbell, Managing Director, Dunlop Lighting Ltd, for services to export.

**GILCHRIST**, James Finlay Elder, lately chairman, Harrisons and Crosfield Ltd; for services to export.

**HOPKINSON**, Henry Thomas, for services to journalism.

**JONES**, William Elwyn Edwards, for public service in Wales.

**LAING**, Hector, chairman, United Biscuits (Holdings) Ltd; for services to export.

**LOCK**, Commander John Duncan, chairman, Association of District Councils of England and Wales.

**MCNAUL**, David Blackstock, Commissioner, Metropolitan Police.

**MILLEN**, Malcolm John, Director-General, Confederation of British Industry.

**MURPHY**, Leslie Frederick, chairman, National Enterprise Board.

**NEWMAN**, Kenneth Leslie, Chief Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

**PEARS**, Peter Neville Luard, singer; for services to music.

**POTTER**, Joseph Raymond Lyden, chairman, Halifax Banking Society.

**SELIGMAN**, Peter Wendel, lately chairman, APV Holdings, Ltd; for services to export.

**SHONFIELD**, Andrew Alister, director, Royal Institute of International Affairs.

**SMART**, Professor George Alexander, director, British Postgraduate Medical Federation.

**SMITH**, George Fenwick, general secretary, Union of Construction, Allied Trade and Technicians.

**STONE**, John Richard Nicholas, Leake Professor of Finance and Accounting, Cambridge University.

**SUGEN**, Arthur, chief executive officer, Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd.

**SYMMINGTON**, Professor Thomas, lately director, Institute of Cancer Research.

**TOMBS**, Francis Leonard, chairman, Electricity Council.

**WINTERBOTTOM**, Waker, for services to sport.

## ORDER OF THE BATH

## GCB

**PILE**, Sir William Dennis, chairman, Board of Inland Revenue.

## KCB

**HAMILTON**, James Arnott, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Department of Education and Science.

**HOCKADAY**, Arthur Patrick, Second Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence.

**PRESTON**, Peter Sansome, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Development.

**RAWLSON**, Anthony Keith, Second Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury.

## CB

E. V. Adams, dep sec, Ed of Ireland.

Rev W. A. Beckett, legal sec, Law Off Dept.

M. F. Bond, principal clerk, Inf Serv, and Clerk of Records.

Use of Lords: J. D. Brierley, under-sec, Dep of Ed.

J. C. Carter, dep sec, Dep of Emp.

F. C. Cheetham, sec, Exchequer.

J. R. Ede, keeper of public record, Lord Chancery.

J. R. Fraser, dep sec, Scotland.

Min of Def: A. R. M. Jaffray.

Min of Def: T. P. Jones.

N. D. Lester, dep sec, Prisons.

Min of Env: J. C. Orton.

Min of Env: K. R. Shimeld.

Min of Indust: W. R. Ridder.

Min of Indust: K. R. Ridder.



George Hutchinson

# Let us start 1978 by putting all the doom merchants to flight

Before the outbreak of war in 1939, and until very late in the day, the Beaverbrook newspapers were still attached to the optimistic—but not irrational—line of thought which was to result in their subsequent disengagement as “the sunshine press”. The headline in the *Daily Express* of September 30, 1938—“Britain will not be involved in a European war this year, or next year either”—has since acquired a notoriety unique in modern newspaper history. That notoriety owes more to prejudice than it does to knowledge or understanding of Lord Beaverbrook’s outlook—for he, of course, was the author of *Express* policy.

Lord Beaverbrook was a patriot of radical (yes, radical) inclination; and he was an Isolationist. He believed that war could and should be averted. In the event, his convictions proved to be mistaken,

although the underlying reasoning was perhaps logically “correct”.

Temperamentally optimistic, he thereafter found himself decimated for optimism. But he was resilient, robust, suffering the slings and arrows with composure. As he once said to me: “When I was young, they saluted you for being a millionaire. Now they spit at you.” He mended—and yet he didn’t mind: for Lord Beaverbrook was very grand, you see, quite princely in his ways and arrangements.

Today, although in an international setting much different (thank heaven) from that of the thirties, the “sunshine” label is again being strung round the *Daily Express*—and with little or no justification. The present chairman, Mr Victor Matthews, is no Beaverbrook. He is, however, Beaverbrook’s successor as the arbiter of policy, insofar as anyone

can lay claim to the role so commandingly (and sometimes capriciously) exercised by his late lordship.

And what is happening? Mr Matthews is beset by criticism, mocked and derided by a good part of Fleet Street for “undue” optimism, for his self-proclaimed “belief in Britain” for his determined emphasis on what is hopeful or welcome or cheerful or agreeable—as if the only news was bad news and all comment had to be gloomy.

Victor Matthews may be a Johnny-come-lately in journalism, but these instincts seem closer to human nature, as most of us know it, than those of the doomsters. Without at least a modicum of hope, there is despair; and ruin follows.

Optimistic attitudes can of course be overstated, overdone, and carried too far may become dangerous. But the baleful tongue of ingrained

pessimism is even more dangerous and less defensible. We shall come to no harm from repousing—and moreover expressing—a little faith in the future. We could come to grave harm if we displayed none at all.

No one understands this better than the Queen, who is so finely attuned to national sentiment, as anybody who did not realize it before must have recognized from the public response to her Silver Jubilee. This has been a most memorable year for the Queen and thereby for the rest of us, with all its proofs of steadiness and trust up and down the country—steadiness of respect for our institutions, of which the monarchy is first, trust in their value and continuity.

Meanwhile, football boys, whether they are football hooligans or pop stars, are always to be discouraged from inflicting their attentions on others. Let Mr Stewart fly American

and—thus fortified—to enter the New Year in good heart. Optimism won’t kill us—but pessimism could.

Descending to a lower plane, as a shareholder in British Airways I might suggest that Sir Frank McFarlane and his board should lose no time in imposing a ban on one of their customers, Mr Rod Stewart. After his outrageous behaviour before Christmas on a flight from Los Angeles to London, when he and his party created unspeakable disturbance to other passengers, it is probably true to say that his patronage is no longer welcome or acceptable to those of us, the British taxpayers, who own the airline. We can do without him.

Louts and street corner boys, whether they are football hooligans or pop stars, are always to be discouraged from inflicting their attentions on others. Let Mr Stewart fly American

from now on—if any of the American airlines will take him.

□

Professor A. W. Woodruff of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is one of those who wish to impose severe restrictions on dogs by curtailing their admission to parks and “public places”—the latter a most expansive definition which can hardly exclude streets.

Much of the criticism stems, I suspect, from people who simply dislike dogs—though I am not accusing Professor Woodruff of any such prejudice. It is a poor spirit. Dogs are an unfailing source of comfort and companionship in thousands of homes. Of course they should be trained and controlled—as most of them are, in the hands of devoted owners sensitive to public amenity. That is surely as far as official regulation need be carried.

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## Oxford, home of the immortals

They say that fine feathers make fine fowls. But fine clothes do not make the man—as with men, so with books. The contents are more important than the jacket. Nevertheless, a smart suit can still, on occasions, be useful to a human. And a book starts life with the bibliographic equivalent of a silver spoon in its mouth if it wears on its spine the colophon of three golden crowns encompassing a double-page spread inscribed *Dominus Illuminavit Mea*. No doubt the Oxford University Press has sometimes published a bad book, though it is blasphemy even to whisper the imputation next year. But in general, sound scholarship distinguishes the love of truth and usually good reading as well as official regulation need be carried.

The first book printed in Oxford, the cause of this year’s quincentenary celebrations, is something of an embarrassment. It got both its author and date of publication wrong, a practice subsequently frowned upon by the fastidious perfectionists of the Clarendon Press. The book purports to be an exposition of the Apostles’ Creed by St Jerome, dated 1468, that is some nine years before Caxton started printing in London. This would make it the first book printed in England. Unfortunately, all but the most blindly Oxonian bibliographers have since concluded that the date was a mistake for 1478, an X having been dropped from the Roman numerals. Nobody has satisfactorily explained why the first book printed in a place of learning by men presumably trained in exactitude should carry such a blatant error. In any case, the book was not by Jerome, but by his bitter contemporary, Tyranus.

I bitterly regret that there is not space to tell you some of the other enchanting stories of the Press: for instance, how Dr Fell founded the beautiful types of the Press, but is today only remembered by the general public by the unkind engraving translated from Martial. Then there was the Vice-Chancellor who embezzled all the profits of Clarendon’s History, and was accordingly appointed Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity in order to enable him to pay back the money. The Fowlers nearly caused their first book for Oxford to be English of the *Times*. They did intend it as a compliment. The publishers thought that the prospectus for any book under such a title would be deservedly poor. At the last minute somebody in the office came up with *The King’s English*. A learned compositor of the Press started querying errors in *Rig Veda*, even though he spoke no Hindi. His arm had got into a regular swing from one compartment of types to another, and he had realized that there were certain movements that never occurred.

When the family of George Smith, its founder, offered to present *The Dictionary of National Biography* to the Press in 1911, the delegates observed that it would probably be a white elephant. The secretary replied with a defiant OUP slogan: “Very likely; but that is the sort of animal that ought to be in our stable.”

The Press devised a dignified formula more comforting to the disappointed author than a bare rejection slip: “Dear Sir, the Delegates of the Press have considered your suggestion that they should publish —, and they desire me to reply to you, conveying their thanks for the suggestion you have been so good as to make to them, and their regret that they do not find them selves able to accept it.” Rejection in such style is nearly as good as publication by a lesser house.

The Oxford University Press is our greatest stable of books. But its greatness resides not just in size and numbers of books, which have made the imprint a familiar badge of learning from China to Peru. It lies in the Press’s persistent and noble belief that truth, and noble belief more than profit.

Kenneth Gosling

German of Muller’s *Certain Variations in the Vocal Organs of the Preserves* (that have hitherto escaped notice), published in 1878: over the next 25 years sales figures of 49 copies had been given, every five.

Wyttendbach’s *Plutarch* was commissioned in 1785, but copy for the seventh and last volume of complete was not received until 1820.

The *Mathesis* remained in the Oxford Catalogue until 1956, notwithstanding that in the last 50 years of the nineteenth century it had not sold a single copy. But the prize for longevity goes to *Wilkins’s Coptic Gospels*, published in an edition of 500 copies in 1716: the last copy was not sold until 1907. Oxford books tend to be immortal, at least in one sense of the word.

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Philip Howard



Spassky, Kortchnoi and Karpov: contenders for the chess world championship.

## Kortchnoi’s complaint

Although chess is supposed to be a peaceful and reflective game, anyone who plays it knows that it frequently gives rise to heat and furious argument. So it is not altogether surprising that Viktor Kortchnoi, the self-exiled Russian grandmaster, should be behaving so wildly in his match against Boris Spassky, the former world champion in Belgrade.

After leading by the huge margin of five points, he has just lost three games in a row. Things started going wrong when he got angry at a demonstration board for the spectators being in sight of the players. Then it was reported that he suspected that “rays” were being directed at him from the auditorium. Now he is threatening to walk out.

This is a very important chess match indeed, not just because the winner will challenge

the Russians wild and hardy ways to gain such a world championship in Moscow (London has been mentioned as a possible venue, but the organizers would need, so it is said, to put up something like £500,000 to stage it). And if Kortchnoi should falter, Soviet pride in their national game would be very seriously hurt.

Despite their rivalry, it seems improbable that Kortchnoi and Spassky could find it in their hearts really to dislike each other. In his autobiography *Chess Is My Life* (Batsford, £4.95), which is a fierce, practically Dostoevskian, account of

his career, Kortchnoi has a very fine passage about his present opponent. “Spassky’s career which has been nearly as long as mine, has been much fuller than mine in excitement and incident”, Kortchnoi writes. . . . I know of no man who is more capable of self-perfection than Spassky. As a chess player he has trodden a difficult path. Stumbling and falling, lifting himself up with new strength, he reached the top.

From being an average member of Soviet society, fearless, unreasoning, submissive—he has become an independent, discerning thinker.

Spassky is also an exile, having had the temerity to marry a French woman; but Kortchnoi’s disgrace, in Russian eyes, is not forgivable: he denounced the system.

The strain of leaving his family, of making a new life in the West, above all of holding his own as a grandmaster—some of his games have shown a youthful daring that must give Kortchnoi himself some qualms—may have been too much to bear.

Chess players have a more

grueling physical and mental life than any other sportsmen one can think of, be tennis players, footballers, even boxers.

They can never relax. Kortchnoi’s lead in their present match, at two games with seven left to play, suddenly looks fragile. It is a supreme test.

The pity is that either of these great men, who have given the chess world so much pleasure, should have to lose.

David Spanier

## The fears that haunt the network announcers

Patricia Hughes is convinced that one of these days she is going to say “basset hound” instead of “basset hound”. It’s the kind of fear that haunts all announcers, although Patricia Hughes was not looking unduly worried when I met her in the crypt of St John’s, Smith Square, at the end of a luncheon concert.

She has been presiding over this immensely successful series for the past eight years and would like listeners to know that she’s not always as calm as she sounds.

“I must be an awful anxiety: when people ask you out for eight o’clock and you get there at eight it must be pretty unnerving sometimes.”

“It takes a lot of nerve reading other people’s scripts”, she said, fixing a cigarette into a holder.

She does her stint throughout the day with a dozen other radio announcers. She also finds in reading poetry and prose which she selects herself, bringing the same enthusiasm to women writers. Nearly all of these are pre-recorded, since, she says, most announcers are too chicken-livered to try it live.

Working to the clock, thinking in seconds when the rest of us deal in minutes, can affect your private life.

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“It takes a lot of nerve reading other people’s scripts”, she said, fixing a cigarette into a holder.

about the right length so there is no temptation to fall asleep.

She is mildly surprised by the number of things about Radio 3 that you are always learning something new.

Pronunciation can be a problem but scripts are usually supplied two or three days beforehand and the announcers knock them into shape. They may be confronted by anything from Chinese to Icelandic.

“They gave me a month’s summer relief and drew me in to do *Pran*, which I did in a week,” she says.

“It was a few weeks before she was really happy, but after that it was plain sailing. When the networks reorganized she joined the Radio 3 team which suited

another vacuity advertised and

another vacuity.

“I don’t know a lot about it but one of the marvellous things about Radio 3 is that you are always learning something new.”

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Otherwise, she enjoys complete anonymity. “I love the privacy of radio—I like to walk down the street and nobody knows me.” Just watch out for a basset hound—bitter still listen for it the next time Patricia Hughes is on the air.

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Personal investment and finance, pages 16 and 17

## ICI profit warning amplifies City's fear over effect of rising pound

By Nicholas Hirst

Fear of the effects of a rising pound on company profits and a growing lack of export competitiveness sent the FT ordinary share index down 5.2 points to 485.4 yesterday. This followed Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's largest industrial company issuing a warning of the impact of the rising pound on its results for the final quarter of 1977.

ICI gave the warning after disappointing figures for its third quarter, with profits down from £168m in the second quarter to £105m and a succession of wider-than-expected profits from companies with interests as widespread as Unilever and Guest Keen & Nettlefolds.

Estimates of company profits within the City have been sharply downgraded over the past few months as previous windfall gains on currency translations have been wiped out and stock profits have been reduced, as inflation has come down.

In Western Europe ICI's sales volume was down 7 per cent in the third quarter. It is saying that the rising pound is hitting profits on United Kingdom exports.

Comments on its fourth quarter trading were contained

## Monopolies inquiry into check trading

By Our Commercial Editor

A statement made to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with the raising of \$150m (£79m) by an issue of guaranteed sinking fund debentures.

At the end of September the downing rate of 1.7476 to the pound. Sterling has since risen by nearly 10 per cent to \$1.9170 yesterday and against the trade weighted index of a basket of major currencies the pound has appreciated by 44 per cent over the same period.

The effect has been to cut away at the already thin margins of major exporters such as Courtaulds and to reduce the import of profits of others.

The impact of companies like BAT, whose shares were down 4p to 235p yesterday.

In its statement ICI said it hoped for some improvement in economic conditions during 1978 but in warning both on the pound and on the continuing depressed level of activity in plastics, fibres and petrochemicals left its shares down 10p to 351p.

However, business throughout the stock market was light and the market has so far been no better than the downwarding of already reduced profit forecasts of between £500m and £520m, down on last year's £540m.

## Sterling climbs further against the dollar

By Caroline Atkinson

Sterling climbed again against the dollar in a thin market yesterday to close at \$1.917, a rise of 70 points on the day. It has gained 5.3 cents in the past week.

The pound's effective rate index has risen from 64.1 before Christmas to 65.2 at yesterday's close, the highest rate for more than 18 months.

The competitive edge gained in last year's fall in the pound has been completely lost according to Morgan Guaranty, the American bankers.

In the December issue of *World Financial Markets* Morgan Guaranty compare the change in exchange rates with different rates of inflation in the major currencies.

They show that the market's effective appreciation this year has been largely offset by the better price performance.

## Signs of downturn in US economy

By Our Economics Staff

America's index of leading economic indicators fell last month for the first time since June, raising some doubts about the strength of the United States recovery.

The index dropped 0.2 per cent from its October level, which in turn was 0.8 per cent higher than in September. The increase in October has been revised upwards by Commerce

Department statistics from an originally assumed increase of 0.4 per cent.

While the overall record of the leading indicator index is good, too much

ought not to be read into one month's figures. Fairly substantial revisions have occurred in the past, bringing about significant changes.

None the less, the signs of a downturn will reinforce those

## Brazil and El Salvador at nub of US coffee inquiry

New York, Dec 30.—The

United States Government is investigating huge coffee purchases by agents of Brazil and El Salvador, according to well-informed trade and regulatory sources. The inquiry has been under way for almost a year.

While it has been known for months in trade circles that both Brazil, the world's largest coffee producer, and El Salvador, also a major producer, have been buying futures contracts—that is, contracts for later delivery of coffee at a specified price—in New York and London, few details of their alleged collaboration have emerged.

The primary targets of the investigation are said to be Brazil's trading company, Petrobras Comercio Internacional SA, known in the trade as Coscafe.

necessary to bolster the world price of coffee.

Another key element in the plan, the sources said, was the operation Central Park's purchase by Brazil of more than 122,000 bags of coffee bought by El Salvador in summer.

The New York coffee and sugar exchange. The coffee was sent to Brazil, and some of it was already been resold in the United States.

A spokesman for the Brazilian coffee trading organisation in New York said government investigators had questioned the officials but denied any manipulation.

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The Times index: 204.89—2.56

The FT index: 485.4—5.2

## How the markets moved

### Rises

Swan de Groot 3p to 71p  
French Group 7p to 75p  
Blyth 4p to 102p  
Lawes 4p to 50p

### Falls

Anglo Am Ind 20p to 430p  
Buchan 8p to 677p  
Blyth 18p to 45p  
Blyth Hill 20p to 45p  
Dunlop 3p to 85p  
Harmont 25p to 330p  
Hochech 13p to 425p  
Imp Chem Ind 10p to 351p  
Kwik-Fit 3p to 34p  
Leslie 2p to 34p

Equities fell back. Gilt-edged stocks rose in late December, premium 80 per cent (effective rate 32.23 per cent). Sterling was at \$1.9170. The effective exchange rate index was at 63.2.

Gold fell 51 to close at \$165.125 an ounce.

SDR-E was 1.2147 on Friday while

SDR-E was 0.657308.

Commodities : Reuters' Index was at 1421.3 (previous 1417.4).

Reports pages 17 and 18

### THE POUND

Mulberry 7p to 77p  
Rowthorn Con 4p to 85p  
Wharf Mill 1p to 23p  
Wights Cons 5p to 112p

Messina Trans 8p to 92p  
Ronnie Cos 5p to 47p  
SA Land 3p to 601p  
Shell 4p to 526p  
Tavener Ridge 13p to 121p  
Tiger Oats 15p to 485p  
UC Invest 12p to 185p  
Unilever 4p to 50p  
Vickers 50 to 174p  
Wintlebank 21p to 526p

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Reports pages 17 and 18

### Bank buys

Australia S 1.72  
Austria Sch 30.25  
Belgium Fr 65.00  
Canada S 1.25  
Denmark Kr 11.30  
Finland Mark 7.90  
France Fr 9.22  
Germany Dm 4.19  
Greece Dr 75.00  
Hongkong S 9.05  
Italy Lr 1710.00  
Japan Yen 460.00  
Netherlands Gld 3.40  
Norway Kr 9.73  
Portugal Esc 88.00  
Sweden Kr 1.95  
Spain Pes 163.75  
Switzerland Fr 4.00  
U S 1.95  
Yugoslavia Duk 38.75

Rates for small denominations bank notes, 1978. The rates are given by the Bank of International Settlements and other foreign currency bureaux.

### In brief

British Petroleum was yesterday given approval to proceed with the second development well on the Buchan field. The field lies about 90 miles northeast of Aberdeen.

In a statement yesterday the Department of Energy said that its approval for the second development well had been given without prejudice to its consideration of the overall development plan for the Buchan field.

BP became involved in developing the field last July only one month after it acquired a controlling interest from three smaller companies.

Move to combat cheap electrical imports

Britain's electrical industry is studying ways to combat cheap imported goods which could present a big problem in 1978 for United Kingdom companies.

Mr A. K. Edwards, chief executive of the British Elec-

trical and Allied Manufacturers' Association, said yesterday: "In several instances it would appear that they are selling at about works cost, chiefly to keep their own production lines running."

Shipyard conciliation

British Shipbuilders has asked independent conciliators to try to settle an inter-union battle that is posing a serious threat to industrial relations.

The dispute centres on

whether the Engineers and

Managers' Association (EMA)

should be formally recognized

for bargaining purposes.

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EDITED BY MARGARET STONE



"offering me Shostakovich as a substitute."

## Salutations to the shoppers

Christmas already means a long time ago. It will be months before I can begin to look back on one particular aspect of it without breaking out in a rash.

I suppose, rather like trench warfare, that actual experience is the only thing that can convey such total horror. Which is why this article is dedicated to all those brave ladies who, without even considering the odds against them, march forth day after day to shop in London's West End and who, I suppose, are facing the pitched battles of the sales.

All I can bring myself to mumble to you is that honestly I never knew it was like that. It is not so much the huddled masses yearning to be free, most of whom are either tourists or pick-pockets or both. One can cope with a shop which means that you had to find an assistant to tell you how much everything was before you knew what you could afford it or not.

My own children are older and out of the toy bracket, thank Heavens. But for my 12-year-old I required, among other things, a bust of Mozart because as far as he is concerned Wolfgang Rules O.K.

There is only one shop in London where you can get musical busts and Mozart had run out. "It's always the popular ones that go first," explained the man, offering me Shostakovich as a substitute.

Well, I left him as I did try, which is more than I can say for most of them. What I found particularly galling was when, instead of serving, they carried on their own private conversation—particularly when it was larded with criticisms of other customers ("... and then she said 'We don't have anything like this in Liverpool'"), accompanied by scornful laughter.

I am sure customers can be diabolical, but I did not go for this. Us and Them attitude at all, especially with 35 minutes before closing time, four more presents to get and zero more practical shopping days before Christmas.

Music shops seemed to have a special charm. In another of them I was struggling through the cassettes, where all the symphonies were

a Noah's Ark as well. And in that shop specializing in hand-carved stuff from Lower Quagga, the fairytale charm extended to not putting prices on any of the artefacts, which meant that you had to find an assistant to tell you how much everything was before you knew it or not.

My own children are older and out of the toy bracket, thank Heavens. But for my 12-year-old I required, among other things, a bust of Mozart because as far as he is concerned Wolfgang Rules O.K.

There is only one shop in London where you can get musical busts and Mozart had run out. "It's always the popular ones that go first," explained the man, offering me Shostakovich as a substitute.

Well, I left him as I did try, which is more than I can say for most of them. What I found particularly galling was when, instead of serving, they carried on their own private conversation—particularly when it was larded with criticisms of other customers ("... and then she said 'We don't have anything like this in Liverpool'"), accompanied by scornful laughter.

I am sure customers can be diabolical, but I did not go for this. Us and Them attitude at all, especially with 35 minutes before closing time, four more presents to get and zero more practical shopping days before Christmas.

Music shops seemed to have a special charm. In another of them I was struggling through the cassettes, where all the symphonies were

Francis Kinsman

## Investor's year

## Hopes still waiting to be realized

Though 1977 saw the FT ordinary index rise 36 per cent and reach its best ever level of 549.2 in doing so, the year will be remembered as a period in which the London stock market failed to live up to the best expectations of investors.

After the peak was achieved in mid-September, the prospect of an upturn in interest rates, the inevitable cooling off over another year of tax restraint and growing concern over the health of some of Britain's leading industrial companies combined to erode confidence to such an extent that the index lost almost 100 points, or 17 per cent, in little more than two months.

Up to the end of July the equity market made steady if unspectacular progress mainly based on Britain's slow recovery from recession, the remarkable fall in interest rates from the crisis level of the previous November and the emergence of North Sea oil as a decisive factor in economic progress.

The key to a dramatic 25 per cent rise in prices over the next seven weeks was a surprise decision by the authorities to unpeg sterling from its artificially low position against the dollar. This gave an immediate boost to sterling and in its wake share prices moved rapidly to their highest ever levels.

At that point there was a widespread belief that the index would rise to 600 and beyond, but in the event expectations of further progress proved to be well wide of the mark. Shares fell sharply and, although there has been some modest revival from lowest levels, recent

HOW THEY FARED		
SECTORS		Worst performers
Best performers % change		
Shipbuilding ..... +175	Wires and Ropes ..... +0.4	
Plant hire ..... +162	Mines ..... +3	
Mall order ..... +124	Tobacco ..... +11	
Hire purchase ..... +118	Chemicals ..... +12	
Construction ..... +106	Oils ..... +13	
Radio & television ..... +105	Floor coverings ..... +15	
SHARES		
Leigh Interests ..... +227	Read Int ..... -30	
Manganese Bronze ..... +500	Westland Air ..... -28	
Campani ..... +405	EMI ..... -19	
Hainers ..... +370	Tate & Lyle ..... -18	
British Aluminium ..... +350	Youghal Carpets ..... -16	
Cap & Counties ..... +330	Ldn & O'seas Firs ..... -16	
All stocks over £5m market value.		

strength in the gilt market has not fed through fully to equities.

From the brokers' point of view a disturbing feature of the year was the generally low level of business actually transacted. An important factor in this has been a marked swing to second-line stocks which, by their nature, are traded in fairly small amounts.

The general reluctance of investors to commit themselves to the "blue chips" was partly vindicated by a clutch of disappointing results in the autumn and the strength of sterling, which has proved a disadvantage to the big exporters.

An analysis of performance sector by sector shows the relative strength of consumer-oriented shares. Mail order, hire purchase, radio and television, furniture, domestic appliances, motor distributor and footwear

David Mott

## Round-up

### The case for sickness cover

One form of insurance for which I have no hesitation in handing the drum is permanent health insurance, one of the more under-sold of insurance policies and yet arguably one of the most needed.

It is, of course, somewhat misleading—if it were given the more accurate title of long-term sickness insurance (providing income), then perhaps more people would be nudged into acquiring this cover. For the statistics indi-

cate that the family bread-winner is more likely to be stricken in this way than by premature death. Yet in the majority of cases his family would be much better off if he were to die than if he were to become a long-term invalid or unable to continue in a highly paid job.

Permanent health insurance can be bought by individuals, but the trend is for employers to include it in the range of benefits offered to their work-

force. As employee benefit packages are outside pay guidelines it is an area where union involvement could be encouraged.

Costs vary, but as a rough estimate one can assume that a group plan will amount to about 1 per cent of the payroll.

Legal and General, which has just improved the terms of its own plan, has been doing some research into the subject. Its findings show that fewer than 2 per cent of workers belong to a group scheme, although one in three is likely to be off work for at least three months during his working life.

What is more, a Gallup survey that L & G commissioned showed that only one family in 10 believed that they could keep up their commitments for more than six months if their income was halved.

The Times

### SPECIAL REPORTS

put situations and subjects of today into

PERIODICALS

MS

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

### Stock markets

## ICI warning casts its shadow

Hopes of a spirited end to 1977 were quickly dashed by ICI's report of depressed trading and its warning that a strong pound will make an impact on fourth quarter exports.

Jobbers were quick to take evasive action and by 10 am the FT Index was 6.2 down. With a complete lack of interest thereafter—even for the new account—prices were not able

to make a significant recovery and by the close the index was still 10 down at 464.4, a dip of just half a point from the previous day's Christmas account.

The cashier, who was filling her nail and being chatted up by an ardent swain, was gradually pleased to inform me that the girl who should have sorted out the same day had been away sick for a couple of weeks and that nobody else had time to do anything about it. Also, that if what I wanted was not there, it was not worth ordering because they could not get anything until the end of March anyway.

However, after solemnly considering my verdict, I endorsed the 1977 Sun Silk Prize for Monumental Obstructionism to the girl in the china department of one store, where I asked for six blue cups of a particular design. They had the same answer in pink, but she refused to order the blue ones for me from the same makers on the grounds that they, the store, did not normally stock them.

So now I have had my mean and got it out of my system. Women of Britain, I salute you and leave you with this thought—if Marks and Spencer can do it, why can't everyone else?

Armed with such a slogan and insisting on your rights you could, if you carry on methodically throughout the year, organize things that by the time next Christmas comes round my own annual shopping experience will be almost bearable.

News of the bid followed two attacks on the H & C empire. A bid for Golden Hope was beaten off and recently McLeod Rus-

sell was off 100m of the "cap" was sold yesterday and the share could now be less than one-third of the £90m issue left after just two weeks' trading.

At the longer end stocks managed to edge ahead by one-eighth or so after spending most of the day at their overnight levels.

For ICI the gloomy news clipped 10p from the shares at 35p while fellow exporters to Asia in sympathy included Beecham, down 6p to 67p, Wilkinson Match 5p to 209p and Stewart Plastics 8p to 137p. Burfentol managed to gain another 2p for a close of 2p to 127p.

The weak premium clipped prices from overseas issues with Philips Lamp off 4p to 88.06 at one stage, and Royal Dutch Shell lower by 8p to 238.62.

Other leading industrials to lose ground were GKN 6p to 276p, GEC 4p to 271p and Thorn, where the fall was 6p to 382p. End of account profit was taken clipping back some of the distillers after their recent success. British Distillers 10p to 260p, Firm against the trend in the financial sector R. P. Martin 2p to 73p and Distillers 2p to 180p.

Against the trend, Irish Distillers gained a penny to 131p and also in drinks Allied

Breweries, the first of the sector to report in the new year, slipped 2p to 93p.

Both S Leiboff 2p to 50p and Britannia Arrow 1p to 221p benefited from comment while for a similar reason motor dealer Pride & Clarke continued to go ahead, rising another 2p for a close of 2p to 112p.

Among the banks Lloyds slipped 7p to 285p, Barclays 5p

their recent gains with GUS "A" down 8p to 308p, Marks & Spencer 5p to 158p, Boots 3p to 227p and Burton "A" 3p to 112p.

As some say, the bear market in bank shares is over, Greenall Whitley should look cheap against the sector. This Northern brewer and Vodkas group is benefiting from drinkers deprived of their Bass Cheltenham beers. Christmas has been good and Greenall is streamlining its brewing at Warrington. Profits up 17 per cent in the year to last September, but some hope for up to 31.5m this year. The dividend is covered nearly four times. The shares are 104p, the 1976 peak.

Speculative issues to suffer from profit taking included Photo-Me, off 10p to 260p, Wilkinson Match 5p to 209p and Stewart Plastics 8p to 137p. Burfentol managed to gain another 2p for a close of 2p to 127p.

Building industry shares continued to draw strength from interest rate hopes, notably Rowlinson Construction, up 4p to 228p, Crouch Group, better by 7p to 72p and J. W. Henderson which added several pence for a close of 142p.

Sweet maker Taverne Rutledge was hit by 10p to 260p. Firm against the trend in the financial sector R. P. Martin 2p to 73p and Mercury Securities where the three week high was 2p to 130p. Stockholder Akerley & Smithers reacted 6p to 230p.

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Finally, Ladbroke says the offer represents an increase in capital value of more than 33 per cent on the price of L & G on the day before the announcement of the offer. It values L & G shares at nearly double the price on the day the 1977 report and accounts were published.

The reaction of the directors of L & G was that the cash offer very substantially undervalued the true worth of the group. Only the L & G board was in a position to appreciate the group's current trading performance.

## Ladbroke in late effort to capture Leis & Gen

By Ashley Drucker

Its 60p-a-share offer for Leisure & General Holdings due to close on Thursday next, Ladbroke, the betting and entertainments group, again presses its case for L & G's acceptance. Ladbroke now holds about 18 per cent of the L & G equity. Indications at present are that there is still a deal of hard going ahead for this bid worth a total of some £5.2m.

The L & G board has already stated that the real and other shareholders controlling about 54 per cent of the equity do not intend to accept the offer.

Ladbroke in its latest circular argues that there has been a decline in real earnings at L & G. Its 60p cash offer values L & G at 14 times earnings based on 1976-77 results.

L & G has not made any forecast for the year to April 30, 1978, but assuming that there was a profits rise of a third, average growth rate for each of the five years to end-April next would still be 25 per cent below the average inflation rate since 1973.

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## Lombard North chief in confident mood

For Lombard North Central, Britain's best known car financier and part of National Westminster Bank, the fall in interest rates that began last spring came none too soon.

Dear money in the half year to March 31 kept profits severely under check. Things got better after that but the year's overall cash flow for the full year to September 30 was actually higher than in the year before.

However, pre-tax profits rose from £8.7m to £16.3m.

Much of the blame for the poor performance during this period is placed on the substantial devaluations in Spain and Sweden, together with the general strengthening of sterling against foreign currencies,

which account for about 70 per cent of group turnover.

In addition to this the group sold some secondary activities such as the pharmaceuticals and toiletries products division in Britain.

Trading in the United States has proved difficult for the group because of the unusual competitive pressures in the retail food industry in the north-east of the country.

Economic conditions in Sweden and Spain have also been particularly unfavourable, whereas trading in the United Kingdom, France and Austria has been satisfactory.

Meanwhile, Sir James Goldsmith has sold 4,100 of his 10 per



## Stock Exchange Prices

ACCOUNT DATES: Deadlines Begin: Tuesday, Deadlines End: Jan 13, Contango Day: Jan 16, Settlement Day: Jan 24

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

## Subdued end to account





## SPORT

## Football

## Forest seem favoured by tide of events

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

In the past week footballers who were perhaps beginning to become apprehensive about Nottingham Forest's five-point lead in the first division reassured themselves by saying: "It's still wide open", while with a season only just moving into its second half, is mathematically indisputable. Yet Forest's manager, Brian Clough, made some psychological capital by pointing out that Derby County had not been as well placed at the same stage in their championship winning seasons.

The trend has been for the Christmas programme to finish with the way ahead distinctly marked. Derby were exceptions and even though Liverpool are thought of as a team with a late second half, the tide of events to the pattern by leading immediately after Christmas when on the way to their tides of the past two seasons.

Everton, who have the tide of events in their favour, especially as Everton, the team who seemed to be riding an unbeatable sequence, collapsed to two defeats to the Uniteds, Manchester and Liverpool, on Boxing Day and Tuesday.

Everton still figure highly in the options and their matches today, against Arsenal at Goodison, and on Monday at Nottingham Forest, on the assumption that the two wins would revive them. Liverpool, moving back into position, may well take four points from two north eastern clubs, Middlesbrough and Newcastle United, but Arsenal and the Uniteds will still have the New Year's Eve Six consecutive away wins and only one home defeat all season are figures that have combined to take them along side Everton on the day the clubs meet.

Arsenal have locked on to a regular selection and retain it today. Macdonald was in some doubt earlier in the week but has recovered. Everton's defeats have brought a new confidence from the manager, Gordon Lee, who drops his young centre half, Higgins, and a full back, Jones, replaces them with the more experienced Kenyon and Darracon. Both Lee and Macdonald are still inured to Ross, former captain of Arsenal, and McKenzie continue.

A friend of wide experience in observing football throughout the world was moved to say this week that Nottingham Forest's performance in their first half against



Macdonald: fitness doubts dispelled at Highbury yesterday morning.

Liverpool on Boxing Day was as good as anything he had seen in recent years. That, being so, Forest should not be stretched at Bristol City today although Alan Dickens has produced a sound, sensible team who will not play with much confidence. Forest will have O'Hare as their substitute instead of Bowyer and that is their only alteration from the team who won at Newcastle on Wednesday. Bristol will be better prepared for the transfer market at least until next summer. In any case he said: "I'm fed up with the outrageous prices clubs are asking for quite average players."

Neither of Norwich's matches against Middlesbrough today and West Ham United on Monday should prove his confidence unshaken. West Ham, who have been beaten by Leicester City today, have shown a hint of desperation by dropping their goal-keeper, Day, for the first time in four seasons. Newcastle's approach to their problem has been to be almost European oriented. They play against Aston Villa today but Tuxer, who scored three goals on Monday, is concerned about some pain behind the knee. Meanwhile, Charlton is recovering from his injuries and may play at Leicester on Monday.

## Futcher returns only two months after car crash

Paul Futcher, Luton's England under-21 defender, makes his comeback today, more than a month after he was seriously injured in a car crash. He plays in Luton's third team in a Chiffon Premier League game against Cambridge United.

Futcher, aged 21, resumed full training a week ago to the astonishment of doctors who predicted he would take at least three months to recover from the road accident which left him with six broken ribs, a broken shoulder, and severe head injuries. I can't wait to get back in the side," said Futcher, adding: "I hope I can prove that I really have recovered and if all goes well I want to be ready to return to the first team within a month."

The Luton manager, Harry Haslam, has promised Millwall a reply within a week to their offer to make him general manager with a lucrative five-year contract. The Luton directors will decide on Tuesday whether to offer a new

## Holiday fixtures

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

## First division

Birmingham v Chelsea .....  
Bristol C v Nottingham Forest .....  
Coventry v Manchester U .....  
Everton v Arsenal .....  
Ipswich v Derby .....  
Manchester C v Aston Villa .....  
Middlesbrough v Norwich .....  
Newcastle v Liverpool .....  
QPR v Rangers v Wolverhampton .....  
West Brom v Leeds .....  
West Ham U v Leicester .....

## Second division

Blackpool v Orient .....  
Bury v Sunderland .....  
Cardiff v Charlton (2.30) .....  
Bury v Sheffield U .....  
Luton v Brighton .....  
Mansfield v Crystal P .....  
Millwall v Bolton .....  
Notts Co v Bristol R .....  
Southampton v Stoke .....  
Tottenham H v Blackburn .....

## Third division

Bradford C v Chesterfield .....  
Bury v Carlisle (2.15) .....  
Chester v Lincoln .....  
Gillingham v Swindon .....  
Oxford U v Exeter .....  
Peterborough v Preston .....  
Plymouth v Wrexham .....  
Port Vale v Rotherham .....  
Sheffield W v Hereford .....  
Shrewsbury v Colchester .....  
Walsall v Cambridge U .....

## Fourth division

Barnsley v Southend .....  
Crewe v Darlington .....  
Doncaster v Halifax .....  
Grimsby v Torquay .....  
Hartlepool v Swanside .....  
Huddersfield v Scunthorpe .....  
Northampton v Aldershot .....  
Reading v Newport .....  
Southport v Rochdale .....  
Wimbledon v Watford .....  
York C v Brentford .....

## Scottish premier division

Ayr v Celtic .....  
Clydebank v Aberdeen .....  
Dundee Utd v St Mirren .....  
Motherwell v Partick Th .....  
Rangers v Hibernian .....

## Scottish first division

Airdrie v East Fife .....  
Arbroath v Hamilton .....  
Dumbarton v Queen of South .....

## Rugby League

## Bramley decide to dismiss their coach

Bramley Rugby League Club announced yesterday that they had dismissed their coach, Tommy Smale, who joined them during the close season.

Les Phillips, the club secretary, said in a statement: "The main reason for the dismissal was the attitude and conduct of Smale towards the chairman, Mr Douglas Alton, and the board of directors on several occasions, which left much to be desired, and could be no longer tolerated. The board had no alternative but to take action."

Mr Smale was formerly coach at Dagenham, who won the League championship when he was in charge. Bramley have had a disappointing season after gaining promotion and with eight points from 16 matches are in danger of relegation.

David Oxley, the Rugby League secretary, in a message for 1978

said yesterday: "My greatest wish is to send the Australian tourists home with plenty of cash but no ashes."

The visit of the Australians in the autumn will be the highlight of 1978," Mr Oxley said.

"Through the European triangular tournament and under-24 matches we are building up to the visit of the Australians and we are determined to take the Ashes."

Mr Oxley hoped 1978 would see a continuation of the improvement in the standard of play which had led to rising rates and greater consistency in refereeing. "Our recent visit to France proved beyond doubt that our referees are the best in the world but we want to achieve a greater pattern of consistency all round in our matches, which is not easy, but we are working with the referees on this."

## Yachting

## Kilroy was here first on time and on handicap

Sydney, Dec 30—Kilroy, an American ketch, was certain to take the Sydney-to-Hobart race on corrected time, officials said yesterday. Kilroy, skippered by Jim Kilroy, crossed the line in Hobart's Derwent river at 11.14 am yesterday, nearly 20 hours outside the record of two days, 14 hours, 35 minutes and 56 seconds set in 1975. Two-and-a-half hours later, only four other yachts had completed the course.

The gale-force winds and high seas, which eliminated 50 of the record number of 130 yachts that started on Saturday, gave way to calm conditions, leaving the rest of the fleet wallowing in light and variable winds. The main contenders for handicap honours were adrift, becalmed between 70 and 100 miles off the Tasman, with the crews helplessly watching their chances of victory diminish as the day went on.

Officials said Zilvergeest III, the first boat to cross the line, had secured Kilroy's lead on corrected time. To win the race on handicap

Zilvergeest must average 6 knots and finish before 0.31 am tomorrow. But in the light conditions, officials say the task seems impossible.

If the American yacht wins, it will become only the third yacht to do so on both the fastest time and on handicap. Captain John Willmott, in Ratu, who won the race in 1975, and Brian 1945, and Ted Turner, who won in Eagle for the United States in 1972, are the only others to complete the double.

As time ran out for the smaller boats in the grueling weather, Kilroy and his tightly-knit crew, "I think we've got it now and I'm tickled", Kilroy said after studying the computerized printout of the other yachts' positions at 7.30 pm. "I'd like to be confident, but the figures say we should do it."

PROVISIONAL HANDICAP PLACINGS: 1. Zilvergeest III (Australia); 2. Windhoek (South Africa); 3. Kilroy (Australia); 4. Ratu (Australia); 5. Pinta (Germany); 6. Star (Australia); 7. 1945 (United States); 8. Eagle (United States); 9. Star (Australia); 10. 1975 (United States); 11. Star (Australia); 12. Star (Australia); 13. Star (Australia); 14. Star (Australia); 15. Star (Australia); 16. Star (Australia); 17. Star (Australia); 18. Star (Australia); 19. Star (Australia); 20. Star (Australia); 21. Star (Australia); 22. Star (Australia); 23. Star (Australia); 24. Star (Australia); 25. Star (Australia); 26. Star (Australia); 27. Star (Australia); 28. Star (Australia); 29. Star (Australia); 30. Star (Australia); 31. Star (Australia); 32. Star (Australia); 33. Star (Australia); 34. Star (Australia); 35. Star (Australia); 36. Star (Australia); 37. Star (Australia); 38. Star (Australia); 39. Star (Australia); 40. Star (Australia); 41. Star (Australia); 42. Star (Australia); 43. 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## Weekend

Once upon a time there was a tree called the Spachea Perforata—a spreading tree with slightly drooping form, reminiscent of the willow but larger and fragrant, with large flowers above the silvery bark and along the branches. It was known as the Soufrière tree and it was loved for its beauty as well as the hint of pathos.

It began to disappear. There is just one left in all the world as far as anyone can tell and what a miracle it would be if

somebody suddenly said there was another after reading this, for the lone Soufrière tree even have a happy ending. This last member of its species is at the Botanic Garden in Kingstown, St Vincent, in the Caribbean, where it was planted before a volcanic eruption destroyed nearly all the trees on the slopes of Mount Soufrière in 1812. Nobody thought or did much about the few that escaped that volcano and it was too late after the

second volcano of 1902 which ended the lives of the few remaining trees.

Until recently, the tree was thought to be male but has now been found to be hermaphrodite—entirely infertile due to the harsh island conditions. Nearly 200 years old, it stands there a botanic curiosity, the last-known specimen in the world.

Sad, but artist Graham Rust has done something about preserving its memory and its elegance and grace. He has done a

## SHOPAROUND

delicate, charming pencil and watercolour of Spachea Perforata, done at St Vincent during the past few months.

You can buy prints of the Rust picture at Spink and Son, 5/7 King Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6QS (01-930 7888) for £10 each, a not too costly way of remembering the tree

after it breathes its last, as well it may.

Also at Spink is, at last, the Silver Jubilee paperweight, of which we showed a photograph more than two months ago when there were expected to be more than there were. Colour leaflets, with order forms, for this £250 (+ VAT) paperweight by Bak-

## Sheila Black

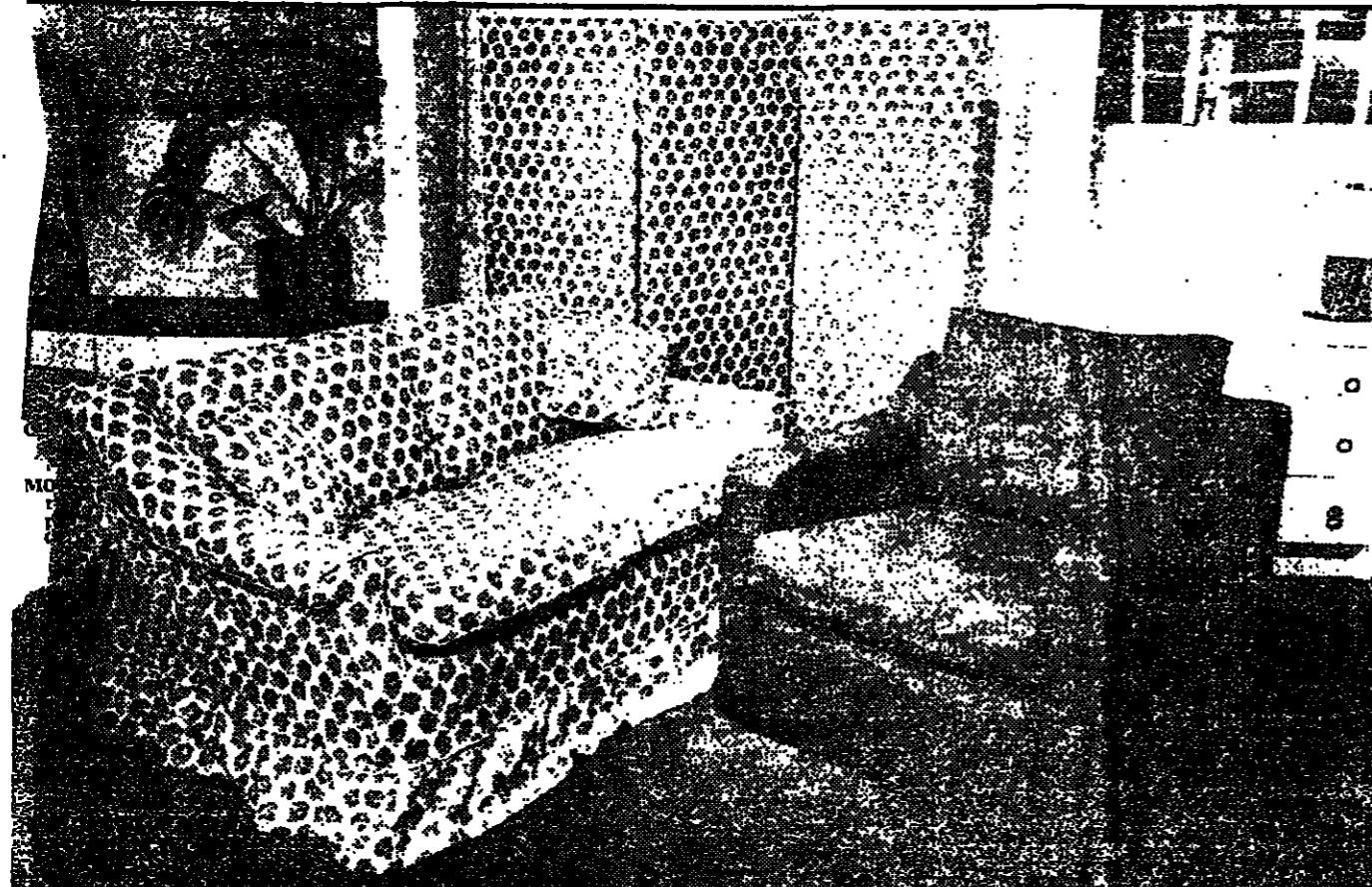
car can be sent from Spink, who commissioned it from the famous crystal firm. It is limited to be made in a limited edition of only 500. The Queen's profile is white gold, a rich pinkish ground, showing at its best when the paperweight is lighted and is framed by a circle of 25 canes.

For dedicated collectors, there are some more paperweights by Paul Stankard, rapidly becoming a star in this world who made his first paper-

weight only seven years ago and is becoming recognized by the cognoscenti, some of whom compare him to a master like Charles Kozlowski. Each Stankard piece is signed with a cane inserted into the bottom of the weight and he appeals to collectors by making a series, his insistence on perfection being amply demonstrated by the massive barrel of rejected weights in his New Jersey studio. Among his flowers are a

superb frangipani looking camellia, orchids in roses and seed and a rich almond-green one with blue flowers that I did not recognize (both about £225).

A year ago, when I was looking for paperweights at from about £250 at Spink, and there are still quite a number at under £500 there now—the world record price stood at £8,500 for a Clichy lily. In July, 1977, a Clichy bouquet of flowers weight went for £33,000 and last year's next highest was £17,500.



■ New Dimension has been changing fast during the past year and even faster in the past few months. The photographs do not show their best sale bargains—quite deliberately because what is available in sales can vary from one day to the next and I feel that I can best serve you by telling you about their look, their style, their design sense. From being once a cheap furniture place, specializing in mail order, New Dimension has become a medium-priced, good furniture place with clean, simple design and infinitely more prettiness than it had in the old, very welcome but rather starker days.

Because of the gradual, now rapid,

changes, there will be plenty of bargains among the discontinued lines. Lots of shelving, shelf units, wall or free-standing units with drawers and cupboards are in most branches, making way for the newer pine cube systems for storage and shelving. These wood units are laminated with a good pine veneer and can be varnished or waxed to stay as natural pine or can be painted or stained to any colour you like. The cube system must be familiar to most people but it is worth going along to study because, rather more than most similar storage systems, it makes it much easier for impulsive customers to buy the few pieces they can afford and then to add at will without the initial unit looking

like only half a unit. As the pine cubes come in, the ever-popular but now obsolescent Homestore is being phased out—not because demand has fallen but because there is no room for the good when the better comes along. I like the calico-covered chairs and sofas in the Sophie and Scroll upholstery ranges because they are comfortable, extremely compact in even the smallest living rooms, of a good sitting height (so many people are not very agile on low furniture) and yet spacious enough. Loose covers are pretty and I love a Designers Guild cover so much that my own Sophie is dressed in it, blue and white and fresh. You do not need to buy the loose covers at once because the calico is perfectly livable with until you can afford it. The chair

is normally around £90, the two-seater sofa about £140 and the three-seater £175. Sale price equivalents, if you get them in time, are roughly £81, £126 and £157. The loose covers are made in a new way and could hardly be quicker and simpler to put on and take off and you can have them with frilled skirts or to look neatly fitted. They are not cheap covers but they are attractive.

The ticking sofa (called Tik) is in brown and cream or black and cream stripes and they look smart as well as practical at about £99 for the chair, £149 for the sofa (down to about £79 and £119). To decorate them are a wealth of really pretty cushions.

There are no sale goods as such at any of the New Dimension branches but there

are reductions on normal goods. Every single thing is reduced—I had not realized that this is fairly unusual; sales goods are often only a part of the merchandise, mixed up with lots of non-sale stuff. The reductions may be 10 per cent or may be as high as one-third. There are some pieces down by half but they usually sell out fast, so it would hardly be fair for me to irritate you with a list two days after the sale opened.

China and glass, where it exists and it is not in all the shops by any means, is excellent value and in very good taste. Design here is often by Lord Queensberry, who has not only designed for a living but taught others at the Royal School of Art to do so too. What he has not

designed he has carefully chosen and I

think you will be tempted by a lot. Ipswich, St Albans and West Ealing are the china shops but there just may be sale editions in some of the other dozen or so branches. If you do not know your nearest New Dimension, phone 01-996 2900 for your branch. And, if you can take time off, go out to West Ealing where the car parking space is enormous and the browsing is a pleasure while the glass and china is terrific. There are also some different cane and bamboo tables that have elegance and dignity as well as ecology. This branch is at Manor Road, off Drayton Green Road near West Ealing station, London W3, and they are open next Monday, January 2, at all branches. Since most other shops will be closed, the streets should be clear.

■ A friend has been studying and practising "intuitive massage" for a long time and now feels ready to start giving massage. I asked for a trial and it was a kind of traditional Swedish massage but she describes it as centring her energy on the tired spots and then working, with full awareness and attention in one's hands to establish contact with the massagee and so to ease or soothe or relax and make for well-being".

She asked how she should start on paying clients, and I said calmly that she should advertise and then, when she explained, suddenly realized how difficult life has become for genuine masseuses. She dare not advertise so how does she get her clients? She dare not do a mailing or a leaflet drop and she, being a mother, cannot take a job in a respectable establishment which would mean inflexible hours. If anybody who wants honest-to-goodness massage would like to try Sara's touch, I will pass on letters but I tell the story as one of pathos not as an advertisement. Incidentally she lives in West London and is not prepared to travel too far.

■ The National Maritime Museum is a great place to see the young children and teenagers, especially if the weather is fine enough to show the Queen's silhouette. The museum itself is such an interesting place that it is worth a visit even if one never goes in but there is now plenty of inducement, even for those who think they know it well, because a whole new floor of galleries has been opened in the west wing.

■ Replacement photographs for my plastic granny-cube duly appeared among the things in my Christmas stocking this year and my photo cube is now once more up to date, although children shoot up so much during their teens that it cannot be for long. Photographs of the past cubes go into albums but some old favourites are framed and I do like the bamboo frames at Cucina shops at 8 England's Lane, London, NW3 and at 4A Ladbrooke Grove, London, W11. The six-inch square is £1.64, the eight by six inches is £2.08, the 10 by 8 inches £2.02. Postage, 30p each.

■ If it were possible, I should visit, or have an assistant to visit, small specialist shops all over Britain. But it would be physically and financially impossible so I would like to thank readers who send me names of such places where the service has been a good as the merchandise. Shopkeepers themselves send me information but, while I do trust them, they are bound to be enthusiastic about their own enterprises and an objective recommendation is valuable. So do write to me about your favourites. I cannot publish all the names I get, but we do find them useful to pass on to readers and our list is all too short.

All too keenly aware that so many of you live outside London, I do ration rather strictly the mention of purely London shops unless I know them to be willing to handle mail order and telephone inquiries. But Solution is an exception since it is an oasis in a part of London where thousands want to shop in a busy luncheonette or during a brief lull in work and who can find few shops selling original gifts or kitchenery of the kind so plentiful in pretty well every country town and in most of the residential or "village" areas of large cities.

Solution is off London Wall, near the non-shopping side of the Barbican development but on the opposite side of the "Wall". It is very difficult to find but worth seeking. Use the staircase by the IBM building at 40 Basinghall Street or at

the back of the Guildhall. The correct address is Solution, Bassishaw Highwalk, Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DS. The telephone number is 01-638 2007.

The name speaks for itself, being the solution to going West or going without for so many City dwellers and workers. It has all that popular basketware from China and other parts less far east plus some lovely jewelry from Finland—the Lapland range no less. Pine furniture is up to that traditional standard. The Elit is £132, inexpensive for what it is, as well as some chests of drawers in an aged-looking pine for about £55.

There are many of the enchantingly-designed Gallery Five pieces and some very interesting Hawaiian costume jewelry which is rather different, rather naive and good value at prices from well under £5.

The Elit chest of natural and colored woods, that look like hanging lanterns, fish nets, keep nests and suspended globes, are there as are the famous Thomas stocking china ranges and that "fringed-effect" glass by Itala. Silk squares from £1.25 make pretty neckties to tie on high-necked sweaters and dresses, while little animals, such as a squirrel, are on thick chunks of glass, attract many customers to part with anything from £6 to £12. Silver and gold jewelry is either fine and dainty or big and chunky and it all reminds me of the very early days of Boots, which is hardly surprising since the proprietor

■ First you see this doll's house, a great big one almost the size of a Wendy house and firm enough for a couple of children to sit on the red roof above the yellow, many-windowed walls. That, you decide, is a pretty super plaything and, before you can go on to the next thought, one side of the house is flat on the floor and the two children are tucked snugly inside the interior, in their own little hideaway. Flatten the other wall and you have a floor mattress, a spare bed with the roof as the raised part for recliners. The whole thing is made in Dunlopfoam, covered with a removable, screen-printed fabric, and it is fun as well as useful. What a way to make a bed, from a little house, but what a way to encourage little ones to make the bed each morning as long as they can make it

into another play place. Open, the mattress measures 4 inches thick by 75 inches long by 22 inches wide. The actual sleeping length is just over 60 inches as the leaning roof is about 12 inches but possibly not flat enough for a pillow, just a good lean-to for short backs.

It costs £35 and, for the time being, can be bought only at Tigermoth, 166 Portobello Road, London, W11 (01-727 7564).

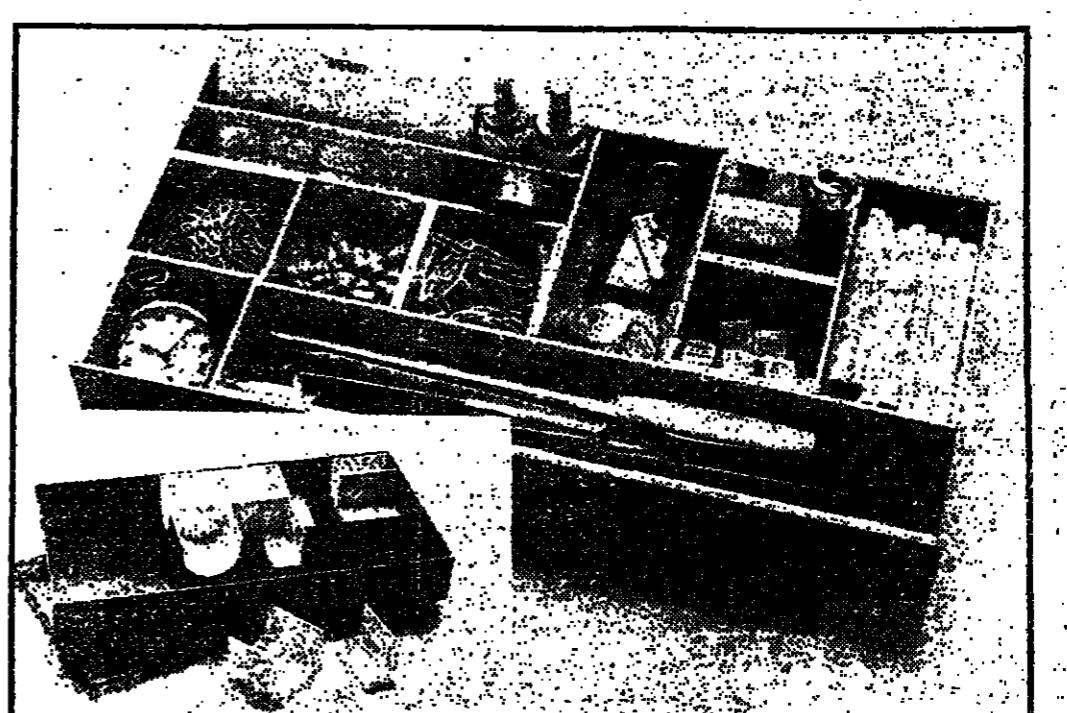
You will also find lots of clothes for young and adult young, casual, pretty, fun and generally at good, medium prices. A child's corduroy dress is around £6, tee-shirts and sweaters for grown-ups are about £10 and the taste there is very boutique, but far from too trendy for most people and the atmosphere delightful. Practical and original; obtainable by mail order.

■ I think that the Rosenthal sale offers particularly good value and I found a great many china pieces at roughly half price. The Thomas china, for example, is down by around 50 per cent and, if you like the special white Polygloss which does stand up to a lot of rough use, it is at under £3 per cup and saucer; normally costing £5.60.

The curvaceous Kosta Boda glassware is also halved in price and there are some crystal pieces, too, as well as a few reductions on tableware.

Rosenthal Studio House is at 102 Brompton Road, London, SW3 and the number is 01-584 0683. This excellent sale starts on January 4.

■ Diddy Box is a ghastly name for a pretty useful container, yet another of those plastic, compartmented boxes for workshop, artist, desk, playroom, sewing or whatever. I say "yet another" but I do think this one is more versatile than many because the various compartment sizes can be changed at will by means of plastic partitions. The box itself stands up to a lot of the heavier oddments like nuts and bolts or tools. Since it has a lid, it does not collect dust along with oddments as so many do. It is in brown, white or red with smoky lid and 24 little dividing pieces. It sells direct from Rotolac Company, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 1TB. The price is £4.99, the postage 50p.



Sheila Black



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